



Thursday debate on Iraq ultimatum

America seeks January 1 war deadline at UN

From JAMES BONE in NEW YORK

THE United States is asking the United Nations Security Council to deliver an ultimatum to Iraq to vacate Kuwait by January 1 or face war, senior Western diplomatic sources said yesterday.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, said he had called a special session of the security council, to be attended by foreign ministers from its 15 members, to consider the draft resolution on Thursday.

"I think the council will want to explore a resolution that would make it very clear that member states would utilise all necessary means after a certain date to implement the prior resolution," Mr Baker said.

"The clear message of such a resolution to Saddam Hussein would be that there is still a chance to resolve this matter peacefully and politically within that time frame," he said. "We think this offers the very best hope for a peaceful and political settlement."

Diplomats from the five permanent members of the security council, who yesterday began discussing a text

in New York, said it was virtually certain to pass. They had hoped to distribute the text to the ten non-permanent members of the security council today, suggesting that the five permanent powers had reached full agreement.

Diplomatic sources said the draft resolution would not specifically mention the use of force but would give UN approval to "all necessary means" to drive Iraq from Kuwait. Similarly ambiguous language was used in the resolution passed on August 25 imposing a naval blockade on Iraq so that China, which has repeatedly emphasised the need for a peaceful Arab solution, would vote in favour.

The draft resolution sets a deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal of January 1, after which force may be used.

Mr Baker, who will chair the security council meeting, made the announcement on his return to the United States from a ten-day trip during which he held consultations with 12 other security council foreign ministers. "We're talking about a resolution that would lay the political foundations for possible use of force if we were unable to achieve a peaceful and political solution to the crisis," he said.

The US build-up in the Gulf, designed to establish an offensive capability by doubling the number of troops to about 400,000, is expected to be complete by mid-January.

American officials have consistently said that Washington would not push for a security council resolution authorising the use of force unless it was assured of success. "It would be very difficult for them to actually lose one," a Western diplomat said yesterday. The administration sees UN endorsement of military action as the key to winning support in Congress, which has begun to question the American build-up.

During the past ten days, Mr Baker has met the foreign ministers of Britain, France and the Soviet Union – three of the other four veto-bearing permanent members of the security council – and nine of the other council members, namely Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ivory

Gunman kills four in Israel
A gunman ambushed four military vehicles and a civilian bus near the Israeli town of Elat, killing four people and wounding 24 others, before running off towards the Egyptian border.

In Israel's buffer zone in southern Lebanon, a woman detonated explosives strapped to her body, killing herself and wounding two soldiers in an Israeli patrol. Page 7

Alderman rout

Terry Alderman took six wickets for 47 runs as England collapsed to a ten-wicket defeat against Australia in the first Test at Brisbane. In Peshawar, Pakistan fared little better with a seven-wicket defeat by West Indies. Page 32

Nature setback
Sir William Wilkinson, the outgoing chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council, will tell the government this week that its reforms of the organisation have set back by years the cause of nature conservation. Page 13

Justice seen
The Bar's public affairs committee is drafting a bill which would end the ban on television cameras in court and pave the way for pilot projects on televising trials. Page 5

CBI gloomy
The CBI has joined the most gloomy forecasters in predicting that output will fall for four successive quarters, from the last three months of this year, and manufacturing output will drop by 2.3 per cent in 1991. Page 25

Chelsea win
Chelsea, without their captain Nicholas and leading scorer Wilson, defeated Manchester United 3-2 at Old Trafford. Page 36

INDEX

Arts	20,21
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Business	25-28
Crossword	5
Com & social	14
Crosswords	15,24
Education	16,17
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Obituaries	14
Sport	31-36
TV & radio	23
Weather	24

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

HAVING ruled recently that the car is a fruit because it is used in jam-making, Brussels bureaucrats are now considering a proposal which might eventually declare that the big red double-decker symbol of London is not really a bus after all.

The European Commission's motor vehicle working group is being asked to accept an obscure international regulation agreed by the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe in 1972, specifying that bus gangways must have a height clearance of 6ft 3in.

This, says the British Bus and Coach Council, could mean an end to travelling "on top". The measure is intended



to provide sufficient headroom for passengers not to have to bow their heads, and is part of the community's attempts to create a single market for buses, enabling vehicles made in one member state to be sold and used in every other. As most British double-decker buses are be-

tween 13ft 8in and 14ft 4in high, the regulation would leave insufficient room for ground clearance, chassis, floors and roof.

Increasing bus heights to meet the regulation is not an option because of existing bridge restrictions in Britain. Adoption of the UN regula-

tion for every category of bus, as advocated by France and Spain, would have little impact on the Continent, where most buses are of the single-deck variety. But in Britain, where more than a quarter of the bus fleet is made up of double deckers, the effect would be devastating.

The proposal, if accepted by the working group, would provoke outrage among British bus manufacturers, operators and users, who are determined to prevent the measure being put forward in the commission's forthcoming draft directive on bus and coach harmonisation.

The bus harmonisation proposals will come under the internal market provisions of the Single European Act and be subject to qualified majority voting. As this excludes the



Sunny outlook: the leadership favourite John Major, right, with his campaign manager Norman Lamont and supporters in London yesterday

Hurd and Major supporters exploit the 'regicide factor'

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

SUPPORTERS of Douglas Hurd and John Major yesterday encouraged Tory MPs to blame Michael Heseltine for bringing down Margaret Thatcher in the hope that constituency pressures would make the "regicide factor" work against him in the second round of the party leadership battle tomorrow.

In spite of talk from Mr Major's supporters of a win on the second ballot, most MPs are expecting the contest to go to a third ballot on Thursday. That could mean that MPs who voted for another candidate in the second ballot will have the chance to swap to Mr Hurd in the third ballot, in a bid to stop the candidate whom they least like.

The three candidates face the last full day of campaigning today knowing that a significant number of Tory MPs cannot go on with the hours that MPs work and the conditions that they work in.

"Secondly, we need more open government while maintaining necessary national security. Present legislation protects the latter. We need to look at how to have the most

independent non-elected central bank with external control over our domestic monetary second choice."

With the Major camp continuing to make progress, Mr Hurd's team was targeting the Heseltine vote in search of an advance for their own man. The other camps felt that Mr Heseltine's success at the weekend in winning public endorsement by Sir Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson

might prove to be a double-edged sword, making it look as though his supporters represented the "assassins' party" of those who had clashed with and sought the downfall of Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Heseltine yesterday compared himself to Mrs Thatcher and said: "I think the Tory party will recognise that I have put them on the path to victory." He said on BBC Television's *On the Record* that he commanded support in the regions, had the backing of people who had deserted the Tories and had "transformed the fortunes" of the party.

"We put the Conservatives ahead of the Labour party in a week," he said. "I've got the Conservatives to acknowledge that the damaging effects of the community charge have to be abated. Now, that is not a bad achievement for a week."

He said his challenge to Mrs Thatcher had united the party, although he conceded some bitterness would remain.

Mr Heseltine yesterday won his first all-important backing from the cabinet when David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, declared for him.

Mr Major, who yesterday won the endorsement of David Waddington, the home secretary, insisted that he was not running as the "Thatcher candidate". On ITV's *Waddington* programme he said: "I am not running as son of Margaret Thatcher. I am running as myself, with my own priorities and my own programme."

He promised, however, a tough Thatcherite line on Europe, saying: "I see no circumstances at the moment in which we could or would present legislation to the House of Commons to surrender more sovereignty to Europe". The chancellor added: "Could we accept an

Outright victory eludes Walesa

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN WARSAW

LECH Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, was the favourite to win Poland's first free presidential elections yesterday but opinion polls at the weekend showed that the contest would almost certainly have to be settled in a second round runoff with Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister.

The Polish media withheld the survey results in case they influenced the voting, but the findings disclosed to *The Times* showed that Mr Walesa had 33 per cent support; to win on the first round he needs 50 per cent. Mr Mazowiecki appeared to be narrowing the gap with his former Solidarity colleague and started election day with 27 per cent, while the Polish-Canadian businessman, Stanislaw Tyminski, trailed third with 18 per cent.

A violent scuffle broke out in Warsaw between youths waving black anarchist flags and nationalist skinheads wielding wooden clubs. But

Continued on page 24, col 3

Presidential prize, page 9
Photograph, page 24

Make sure

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Labour 'to reform training of teachers'

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday promised to reform teacher-training if it came to government. A four-point programme would be implemented to try to raise standards and cut drop-out rates.

Derek Fatchett, a Labour education spokesman, outlined the plans at a conference of teacher-trainers in West Bromwich. He said that improvements were needed to raise the status and morale of teachers and to ensure that new entrants to the profession were confident and well-prepared.

Labour says that at least £100 million is being wasted in training students who do not go on to teach. Mr Fatchett said that 40 per cent of those who begin training either fail to complete the course or subsequently take up non-teaching jobs. Labour aimed to prepare teachers for the demands of the classroom by providing trainees with more practical classroom experience and supervision.

The basis of Labour's plan would be the introduction of a national core curriculum for teacher-training courses. This would specify required levels of competence in education theory, classroom practice and subject specialisation.

Schools would be specially designated for teacher-training for a set period. At present, Mr Fatchett said, trainees were often sent to schools with the largest number of vacancies and highest staff turnover. These were likely to be the schools where the rest of the teaching staff were under the greatest stress and had the least time to support new teachers.

Within schools, teacher tutors would be designated.

One school in five is breaking the law by not having a sex education policy, according to a survey published today. Independent schools are the most common offenders, 43 per cent failing to comply with requirements that have been in force for three years.

The survey, carried out by academics at Christ Church College, Canterbury, for Avert, the Aids education and research trust, involved 338 teachers in 180 schools in southeast England. Most said that they gave information about Aids and the HIV virus but were reluctant to give instruction on safe sex.

Education, pages 16, 17

Ministers to be told they set green cause back by years

By MICHAEL McCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE long dispute over the dismemberment of the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) will reach its climax on Wednesday when Sir William Wilkinson, the outgoing chairman, will tell the government that its action has set back by years the cause of nature conservation, which he fears has been greatly weakened by the changes.

"They have not forwarded the cause; they have set it back by several years," he said yesterday.

The dismemberment of the NCC has been consistently and bitterly criticised by conservation organisations and environmental pressure groups since it was announced by Nicholas Ridley as one of his last acts as environment secretary in July 1989.

The idea originated in the Scottish Office with Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, and Lord Sanderson of Bowden, now chairman of the Scottish Tories but at the time the Scottish Office minister responsible for forestry; they sold it to Mr Ridley, who was himself increasingly hostile to the NCC.

It has been widely seen as an act of simple revenge by the Scottish landed lobby for the NCC's determined opposition to some Scottish development projects, in particular the afforestation of the Flow Country in Caithness and Sutherland.

Mr Ridley's successor, Chris Parton, inherited the scheme ten days after it was announced. He is known to have opposed it but was unable to change it in substance as it had gone through the cabinet.

The Welsh body has no chief executive and is attracting considerable criticism in the principality for appointing a non-Welsh speaker as chairman. Staff of the English agency do not know if it will be merged with the County-side Commission.

The joint committee of all three agencies supposedly the organ to take a broad United Kingdom view of nature conservation, still has no chief executive or secretary and is thought likely to be weak. The general scientific work for which the NCC has received acclaim, such as that on the effects of pesticides on birds of prey, now has to be triplicated, but great difficulty is being experienced in finding qualified scientists prepared to work for the new bodies.

John Theaker, chairman of the NCC trade union side, said yesterday: "It is pretty close to chaos. I have yet to be convinced that all

this will benefit nature conservation." A recent ballot of NCC staff, he said, showed a majority against the break-up of 17-1. On Wednesday Sir William will call for the establishment of a British environmental protection agency as a way of maintaining the drive for conservation, which he fears has been greatly weakened by the changes.

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Red alert: rescue workers at the home of Tony and Margaret Darlington in St Helens, Merseyside, yesterday, after a fire engine on an emergency call left the road, drove into a neighbour's Ford Sierra and crashed into the front of the house. Two firemen went to hospital with shock and minor injuries

Royal Navy submarine to test trawler net bleeper warning

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A BLEEPER system to warn trawlers' fishing nets is to undergo Royal Navy trials with a nuclear submarine in seven weeks, it was disclosed yesterday.

The devices, which are attached to nets and emit pulsed, low-frequency signal tuned to a submarine's sonar, could prevent the kind of accidents which led to the loss of the MS Antares and her crew of four last Thursday.

Trials this summer in the Firth of Clyde indicate that a submarine travelling at 30 knots could be warned of fishing nets more than two miles away. A spokesman for

Seamerix of Aberdeen, the company developing the system, said that low-cost units could be on the market in as little as six months' time.

The Antares is believed to have capsized in 60 fathoms of water off the Isle of Arran after her nets were snagged by the submarine HMS Trenchant. The Royal Navy has said it will try to raise the 55 foot trawler as soon as possible.

Yesterday Patrick Stewart, secretary of the Clyde Fishermen's Association, said that although he welcomed any developments in safety which could protect his members' lives, he believed the submarine should have detected the presence of the Antares and the four other trawlers well in advance and taken action to avoid the accident.

"The Antares was emitting not only engine noise, but her echosounder would have been on and there would have been a monitor on the nets. A bleeper would have added nothing to the cacophony of noise. At that time of night in the Firth of Clyde a submarine would have no doubt that the vessel was towing fishing gear," Mr Stewart said.

However, Don McGregor, managing director of Seamerix, which makes monitoring equipment for nets, said the problem was that submarines could not detect the whereabouts of nets.

Revive in the third quarter of 1990, and with the continuing rise in earnings and lowering of interest rates, the upturn in the housing market is expected to continue through 1991, particularly from around Easter. Earnings are the main long-term factor determining house prices, since the majority of houses are bought on mortgages, and earnings dictate what buyers can borrow, it states.

Rise in house prices predicted

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE prices in Britain will rise by 7 percentage points in 1991 and by more than 11 points in 1992, followed by slower growth in 1993, statistics from the merchant and investment banking group Charterhouse suggest.

That is the conclusion from forecasts that UK base rates will

fall to 12 per cent or less before the next general election, while earnings growth averages 9.25 percentage points in 1991 and 7.75 points in 1992. The Charterhouse forecasts for the housing market until 1995 come from James Morrell, who has more than 30 years of forecasting experience.

According to the report from James Morrell Associates, the first-time buyer market began to

Police fears grow over missing brothers

Fears were growing last night for the safety of two young brothers missing from their home since Friday evening. A police helicopter was brought in to help the search for Neil Kean, aged nine, and his brother Ian, aged 12, of Legomery, Shropshire.

Police say there have been no reported sightings despite widespread media appeals. The boys took no extra clothing, money or food with them and there are fears that they could be suffering from hypothermia.

West Mercia police said: "We are puzzled why we have not had a single sighting of them from anyone."

Chapel moves east

A chapel in Trellaw, Mid Glamorgan, has been dismantled and will be shipped to Japan for use as a golf clubhouse. The 111-year-old building was sold after the congregation fell to just 30 people and the chapel developed dry rot.

Workmen have dismantled the 3,000 square foot Seion Chapel by hand and numbered each important stone.

Sick pay warning

Three million low-paid workers face increased poverty if they are ill because of planned changes to statutory sick pay, the Low Pay Unit claims today. Workers who earn £125 to £185 a week could lose £9 a week under the statutory sick pay bill, which has its second reading today, it said.

Terry discharged

Sir Peter Terry, aged 64, former governor of Gibraltar, who suffered serious injuries in an IRA attack two months ago, has been discharged from hospital. It is understood that he will have to undergo further plastic surgery.

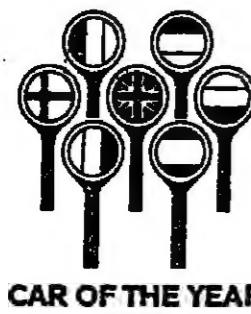
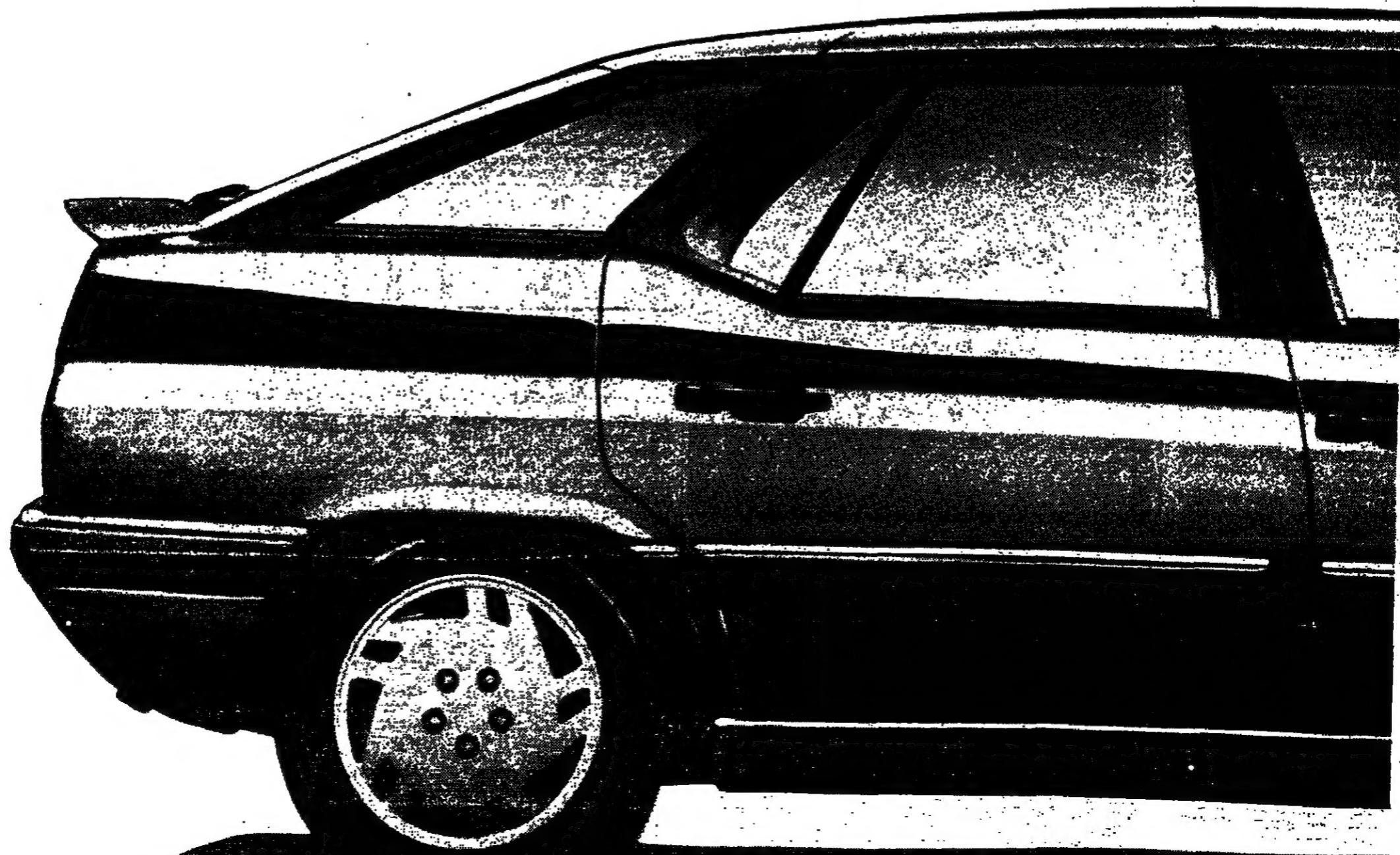
Fires at hotel

Seven hundred people had to be evacuated from the Royal Palace hotel in Piccadilly, London, on Saturday night after two fires broke out within minutes of each other. No one was hurt. Police are treating the fires as suspicious.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000 bond 2GF 025632; winner lives in Doncaster; £50,000 12KCT 052840 (Nottinghamshire); £25,000 14ST 599540 (Pwysa).

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MPs visit Syria as Britain prepares to resume relations

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and Syria were preparing yesterday to renew diplomatic relations after pressure from the United States and Saudi Arabia to settle their differences.

Three MPs flew to Damascus, where David Gore-Booth, under-secretary for the Middle East at the Foreign Office, was already holding high-level talks. The moves co-ordinated with President Bush's talks with President Assad in Geneva on Saturday.

Most sources believe that Britain is about to take a decision in principle, but it is not clear whether the government will wait until the leadership contest is over before confirming it.

If the moves succeed, it will be because of the Gulf emergency rather than Syria's role in obtaining the release of

hostages held in Beirut. Washington and Riyadh are thought to have expressed concern that hostility between London and Damascus could affect the co-ordination of multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

The MPs — Robert Adley, (C, Christchurch), Tim Rathbone (C, Lewes) and Sir David Steel (Liberal Democrat, Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale) — said there was no direct link with the hostage question, but a warmer atmosphere could improve the hostage's prospects.

Mr Adley, chairman of the British-Syrian parliamentary group, said that Tehran was better placed than Damascus to influence groups holding the hostages, but the groups might be better disposed if they were restored. Mr Rathbone said that he and Mr Adley had

previously met Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadallah, spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement, who hinted that renewing links would help.

Sheikh Fadallah has recently made public appeals for hostages of all nationalities to be released.

Sir David said that he had the impression that Margaret Thatcher had held back a renewal of links, but Douglas Hurd had begun to restore the supremacy of the Foreign Office over foreign policy.

Mr Thatcher's objection to renewing links has been, until now, that Damascus has not dropped its support for international terrorist groups. But Amal al-Hinawi was sentenced to 45 years in prison for trying to plant a bomb in an El Al aircraft at Heathrow. Syrian intelligence officials were said to have been involved.

"For a long time there has been a difference of emphasis between the Foreign Office and those advising the prime minister on foreign affairs. There is good reason to believe that, in the light of the Gulf situation, those advisers have changed their priorities," Mr Adley said.

Sir David said he did not expect the leadership contest to affect the decision on relations, because the candidates were in broad agreement.

A decision to renew links would present Britain rather than Syria with the problem of saving face. The government would be asked why it was now ready to accept Syria's assurances, having rejected them before. One source said, however, that the government was "reconciled" to this.

President Assad assured President Bush on Saturday that he was trying to win freedom for hostages in Lebanon. Six Americans, two West Germans and an Italian are missing, in addition to three Britons, Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Jack Mamm. Several hostages released in the past have been handed over to the Syrian authorities.

The gunman entered Israel from Egypt 12 miles north of the Israeli port of Eilat, the Israeli army said. He waited by the side of the road before shooting at four military vehicles as they passed and then at a bus carrying civilian employees to their jobs at military installations. The assailant, allegedly using a Kalashnikov assault rifle, shot three army officers and the bus driver.

Witnesses claimed that after he had shot at the military vehicles, the man put on one of his victim's uniforms and lay in the road pretending to be injured. When the bus driver got out to investigate, he met a volley of bullets. The bus's security guard and several passengers shot at the attacker as he ran towards the border.

Egyptian police arrested a policeman near the border crossing of Taba in the Egyptian Sinai peninsula, adjacent to Eilat. He had been assigned to the area near the attack. Israeli authorities informed the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv that the assailant was injured and had returned to Egyptian territory, but it was unknown whether the man taken into custody was wounded.

Ahmed Esmat Abdell-Meguid, the Egyptian foreign minister, described the incident as "very regrettable". Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, said the attack was "a most serious incident" and asked Cairo to do whatever it could to prevent attacks in the future.

A similar attack took place on February 4 when assailants shot and threw grenades at an Israeli tourist bus on the Cairo-Ismailia road. Nine of the 31 people on board were killed. The Jihad also claimed responsibility for this attack, while unconfirmed police reports suspected Palestinian terrorists. Since then, security measures have been stepped up to protect tourist buses

travelling in Egypt. Since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, security at all ports of entry has been increased and more restrictions have been placed on non-Egyptian Arabs entering the country.

The most recent terrorist attack, when the Speaker of the Egyptian parliament was assassinated last month by four gunmen on motorcycles, led to a spate of arrests of Palestinians, Iraqis and Muslim fundamentalists. Police suspect Muslim militants with foreign assistance killed the Speaker.

In southern Lebanon, where Israel maintains a buffer zone to protect its northern border from infiltration, a woman guerrilla with explosives strapped to her body managed to get close to an Israeli patrol yesterday. She set off the bomb, killing herself and wounding two Israeli soldiers, the Israeli army said.

Earlier, an Israeli patrol boat opened fire on a dinghy off the Lebanese coast and announced later that five guerrillas, apparently heading for Israel, had been killed.

The incidents were the latest in a series of cross-border assaults that have occurred since October 8, when Israeli police opened fire on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, killing at least 17 Palestinians.

Leading article, page 13



Bus victim: Rachel Fishbein, who suffered facial injuries, describing the attack yesterday in Eilat

GULF NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

No shade of 'Elvis' about Kate

Just as the 1982 Falklands war introduced "yomp" (long, forced march) into the vernacular, so has the Gulf confrontation started to produce its own peculiar collection of Anglo-American slang.

The GIs in the desert now frequently refer to anything that has had its day as "Elvis", in the sense of "Saddam Hussein will soon be Elvis". They have also revived an old second world war favourite, "duke", which was why one young marine in a machinegun bunker told President Bush, referring to Mrs Thatcher's decision to resign: "I thought she'd duke (tough) it out".

Upset by the rigours of Islamic law, disgruntled American soldiers have taken to referring to the Saudis and Kuwaitis as "ragheads". Although crude, the term has historical roots. A relative of Sir Percy Fox, one of the most eminent British residents in the Gulf, insisted on referring to the sheikhs with whom he was dealing as "romantic old dears with dusters on their heads".

The stylish successor to the second world war Willis jeep now being driven by the Americans here is known after its initials as a "Humvee".

British squaddies refer to anything

associated with the appalling discomfort of life in the desert is described as "ruffly-muffy", leading to remarks such as: "I've four days ruffly-tuffy before I get back to base."

Soldiers serving in Operation Desert Shield have been amazed to discover that followers of Islam in Saudi Arabia have their own



"agony uncle", one Adil Salabi, who contributes a weekly Friday page to *Arab News*, answering the most intimate personal questions.

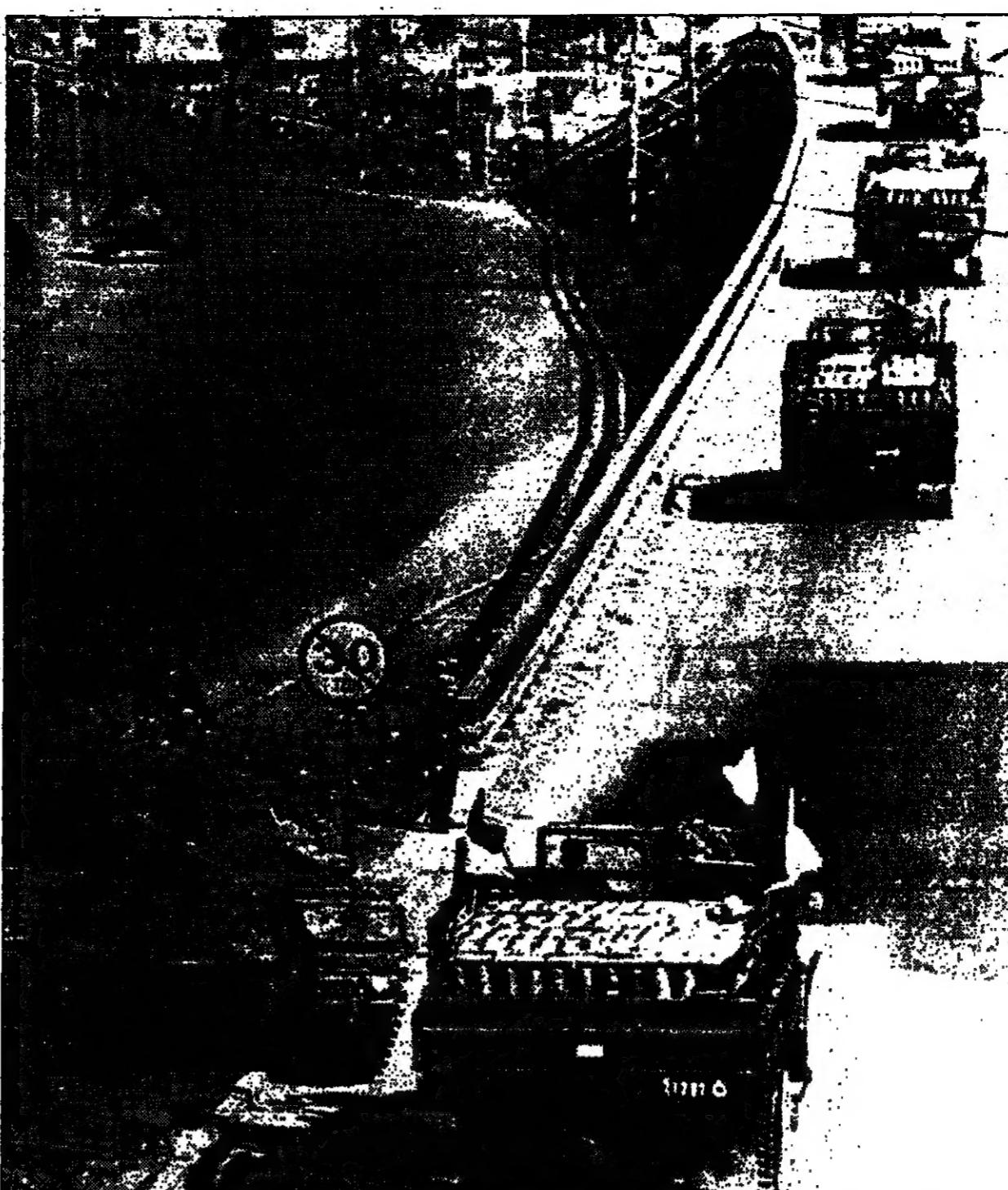
Yesterday he was asked about the Koran's views on men going out with women, a taboo in Saudi society highlighted by the casual fashion in which American male and female troops mix when off duty.

"It is forbidden in Islam for a man to be alone with a woman who is not his wife or a very close relative in a room where he cannot be seen," Mr Amer was informed. "This is not due to any lack of trust in either the man or the woman. It is only meant to strengthen them against any temptation."

The BBC may have lost the battle of Baghdad to ITN, which secured the first British television interview with President Saddam, but in Saudi Arabia the recent arrival of Kate Adie has given the corporation an apparently unassassable advantage.

Miss Adie has been enthusiastically adopted as the "forces' sweetheart", and has been virtually mobbed whenever she visits British forces. Even Air Vice-Marshal Bill Wratten, the new deputy British commander in the Gulf, broke through a cordon of her fellow journalists just to shake her hand.

To the chagrin of other television correspondents, it appears that her allure has already spread across the Atlantic. Miss Adie was the only foreign reporter permitted to accompany President Bush during the whole of Thursday's Thanksgiving helicopter tour through Saudi Arabia.



Exit road: soldiers of the Lebanese army on top of tanks watch a Christian Lebanese Forces convoy withdrawing yesterday from the heart of battered Beirut, under an agreement to make the capital free of rival militias

Lebanon promised peace era by Hrawi

From REUTER IN BEIRUT

PRESIDENT Hrawi yesterday heralded a new era of peace in Lebanon as a 65-vehicle convoy packed with men, weapons and shells continued the withdrawal of Christian militia, the last and strongest of the private armies, began withdrawing on Saturday when a convoy of 20 trucks loaded with ammunition and men headed over to the Syrian authorities.

Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon have played the main role in moves to end 15 years of civil war. The Lebanese Forces Christian militia, the last and strongest of the private armies, began withdrawing on Saturday when a convoy of 20 trucks loaded with ammunition and men headed over to the Syrian authorities.

"There will no longer be east or west Beirut. We now have greater Beirut as a symbol for uniting Lebanon in the future," he told a delegation of Lebanese young people.

"Lebanon will be a country of freedom. Everyone will be allowed to argue and oppose without resorting to guns ... Lebanon is not for one faction, it is for all citizens," he added.

The reluctant departure from Christian east Beirut of the Lebanese Forces, the country's strongest private army, comes after the withdrawal of other militias from the Muslim west of the city. The withdrawals from the capital are a key provision of an Arab-brokered peace pact giving Muslims more say in the Christian-dominated political system.

Witnesses said scores of hardline Lebanese Forces gunmen heading for strongholds outside the city left their positions in the Ashrafieh district in a convoy of lorries loaded with munitions. Poets of Samir Geagea, their leader, were plastered on the vehicles, and the militiamen waved white-and-red Lebanese Forces flags adorned with the green cedar of Lebanon, as they drove past civilians lining the streets.

United front in Saudi desert

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SAUDI ARABIA

FOURTEEN peers and MPs from the main parties in Britain stood side by side in a barren desert location here yesterday to show the world that there was across-the-board support for the government's tough Gulf policy.

Martin O'Neill, the shadow defence spokesman, stated categorically that Labour would support any eventual use of force sanctioned by the United Nations. At a press conference staged under the barrels of three camouflaged Challenger tanks, he dismissed the weekend peace march staged in London, which was addressed by Tony Benn, the Labour MP, and said: "As far as Labour is concerned, the overwhelming body of opinion within the party and among our supporters is to back the deployment of troops." Three opposition spokesmen who had earlier taken part in tank exercises with the Seventh Armoured Brigade added: "We have consistently backed the required UN action."

Labour's forthright commitment was welcomed by Conservative members of the Commons defence committee, who went out of their way to impress on journalists and soldiers alike that a change of leadership does not signal any weakening of Britain's resolve against Iraq.

Michael Mates, the committee chairman and a leading figure in the Michael Heseltine campaign, was adamant that all three candidates were in accord on the Gulf issue.

The Tory MPs in Saudi Arabia are due back in Britain in time to vote tomorrow, but have already voted by proxy in case of delays.

UN resolution, page 1

Hostage releases, page 24

Iraq puts focus on low-tech defences

New York — Iraqi commanders are reportedly working to develop low-tech defences against the technological superiority that would be the chief American military advantage in a Gulf war (Reuters report).

This was a conclusion of a broad review of the Iraqi military by American defence and intelligence analysts. The experts also determined that the passage of time is swiftly degrading Iraq's military capability and some advanced weapons, due to the loss of foreign experts and access to spare parts, according to *The New York Times* report.

Pentagon officials were not immediately available to comment on the report. The paper found that American officials felt Iraqi commanders realised the force facing them had high-technology weapons never encountered by Iraq on the battlefield.

Smoke signals

Cleveland, Ohio — Six Sioux Indians, including two medicine men, are flying to Baghdad to smoke a peace pipe and perform other rituals to try to avert war, James Fry, aged 41, head of the Dakota Elders Survival Fund said. The trip was prompted by visions of the earth's destruction, he added. (Reuters)

Kuwaiti resigns

Nicosia — Sheikh Jabah Muheb al-Sabah, the information minister in Kuwait's exiled government, has resigned, the Kuwaiti News Agency reported. It gave no reason and said he had been succeeded by Badr Jassim al-Yaqoub, who also retains his post of minister for national assembly affairs. (Reuters)

Lawsuit threat

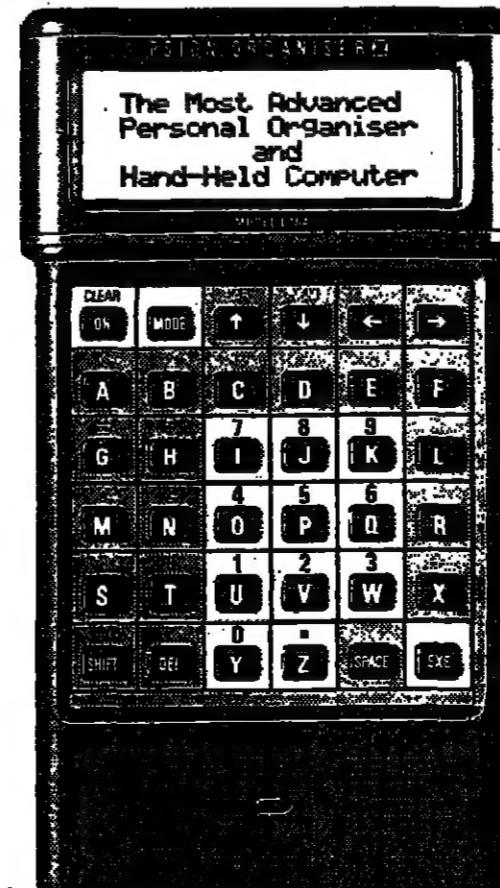
Baghdad — Iraq said yesterday it would file suits against the United States, Britain, Egypt and Turkey if any Iraqis died because of shortages of food and medicine. Mohammad Mehdi Saleh, of the trade ministry, did not say if anyone had died because of shortages since the UN Security Council imposed a trade ban. (Reuters)

Force boosted

Dubai — Pakistan is planning to boost its commitment to the multinational force in Saudi Arabia by sending troops to the United Arab Emirates, the prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, said. Pakistan already has 5,000 soldiers in Saudi Arabia. (Reuters)

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Walesa in the lead but prize still eluding him

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

LECH Walesa yesterday attempted the giant leap from the barricades of the Gdańsk shipyards to the Belvedere palace, but the presidential prize still seemed to be eluding the Solidarity chief.

As Poles cast their vote in the country's first free presidential elections, a reliable opinion survey showed that, although Mr Walesa remained the favourite, he stood little chance of winning in the first round. The survey was withheld from Polish voters lest it influence the balloting. But it showed plainly that the contest was not yet won.

Mr Walesa received 33 per cent support, yet if he is to win outright he needs just over 50 per cent. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister, has narrowed the gap and with 27 per cent is in second place. Stanisław Tymiski, a Polish-Canadian millionaire, has weathered criticism to hold on to a stable 18 per cent. Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the post-communist candidate, was creeping up the scale with 10 per cent, probably representing the real level of support for reform socialism in Poland, while the Peasants' party candidate, Roman Bartoszak, polled 9 per cent. Leszek Moczulski of the ultra-nationalist Confederation for an Independent Poland had a mere 3 per cent. Pollsters warned yesterday that

Anti-Roh students drive back riot police

Seoul - South Korean riot police fired tear gas and stormed on to Konkuk university campus here to break up a 5,000-strong rally against President Roh and American pressure for more firm imports (Reuter reports).

Witnesses said radical students threw petrol bombs and stones to hold back more than 1,000 riot police and six black armoured vans in a clash lasting more than two hours. Demonstrators, unarmed, had been held at a campus building for hours until the police withdrew from the campus.

At least two policemen were taken to hospital for head injuries sustained while clashing with protesters wielding sticks, witnesses said. At least 70 protesters were arrested. After the police pulled out, the demonstrators resumed their rally demanding that President Roh resign for "suppression of the democratic movement" and dissolve the National Assembly.

Afterwards they set fire to the US flag and the flag of Mr Roh's party, shouting slogans calling on the government to oppose the Uruguay Round of the Gatt trade negotiations, which would require South Korea to open its restricted agricultural market.

Irish-Iranian pact

Nicosia - Gerry Collins, the Irish foreign minister, ended a three-day visit to Tehran by signing a co-operation agreement with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian News Agency reported. The agency, which was monitored here, said the agreement signed by the two men at Tehran Airport calls for the convening of an Iranian-Irish joint commission on economic, scientific and cultural co-operation. (Reuter)

Delon raises £9m

Paris - Alain Delon, the heart-throb film tough guy who dominated French cinema for more than three decades, sold 32 paintings from his collection at a Paris auction for £9.15 million. The most expensive painting, Picasso's *The Yellow Belt*, fetched £2.34 million, the Drouot auction house said. One of his personal favourites, *Bust of Madeleine* by Delacroix, was bought for £1.02 million by France's national museum. (Reuter)

Helicopter crash

Rome - At least two people were killed when a helicopter flying to an oil platform crashed in the Adriatic off the northeastern Italian city of Ravenna with 13 people on board, authorities said here. Two survivors and two bodies were reportedly pulled from the sea. There were 10 technicians and three crew on board the SA330 Puma, leased by the Florentine air-taxi firm Eltis to the Italian oil company Agip. (APF)

Green support

Papeete - At least 500 people have demonstrated in Tahiti in favour of Greenpeace, the anti-nuclear organisation, in response to a call from the Polynesia Liberation Front, police said. Organisers from the front, which wants independence from France and opposes nuclear testing, said 1,500 people demonstrated before the arrival of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior II. (APF)



Final filing: Tadeusz Mazowiecki campaigning in Warsaw in the run-up to yesterday's presidential elections. A new survey says the Polish prime minister will get 27 per cent of the votes. Walesa, regarded as a workers' hero, is expected to win 33 per cent

Kohl's magic touch starts fading in east

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN CHEMNITZ

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, must have heaved a sigh of relief after the weekend as he entered his final week of campaigning in former east Germany, braving the rain and smog of Chemnitz to attend a reception markedly more tepid than the rapture which accompanied his visit earlier this year to the city.

The March crowd of more than 100,000 had dwindled to 5,000. They huddled in the concrete gloom of the main square dominated by neon lights vaunting the merits of "spare parts from Karl Marx-Stadt" (the city's former name) to hear him promise that Saxony would soon become "as blooming an area as my home town of Ludwigsburg".

"What is this?" asked one middle-aged woman as a pamphlet was pressed upon her. "Is it from the PDS (communists)? I am not touching it if it is. They should be strung up."

"It is your unity chancellor who should be strung up," retorted her neighbour. The two had to be separated by a policeman.

The east German gratitude vote for unification still ranks as the ace in the chancellor's pack, but the party has been worried that election fatigue may affect the turnout, the population of east Germany having voted three times this year already. "Just think of it as one vote for every decade you were not allowed a proper election under the communists," Herr Kohl said.

The dour industrial city whose only claim to fame was that it housed the largest statue of Karl Marx in the country cheered up briefly earlier this year when it dropped the name imposed on it by the communist leadership. Other legacies are proving more difficult to dispense with.

The main employer, a factory making Trabant cars, has laid off 5,000 staff. Lots of smaller factories which delivered spare parts are threatened with closure. The local CDU candidate nervously sharing a platform with the chancellor begged him to support the factory's struggle to continue exporting Trabants to the Soviet Union now that there is no longer a market in Germany for the car.

"This is the place investors miss out on when they travel from Berlin to Leipzig and Dresden," one city official said.

These are also the voters Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats know to be vulnerable to disappointment as unity fails to provide prosperity at the expected pace. The shops are full of extravaganz Christmas goods, but the shoppers root among the bargains.

They were warned by Herr Kohl

not to fall prey to pessimism about the costs of German unity on which the opposition Social Democrats have fought their campaign. "You have been deprived of the fruits of your labour for 40 years," he said. "The upswing will come if we work together and stick to our dream."

He has covered former east Germany from north to south in

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The SPD, which is following the same trail, fails to inspire more than a modicum of interest outside its heartland in Berlin and the north. Willy Brandt, the former chancellor and father of Ostpolitik, spent his Saturday afternoon campaigning in the southern town of Goritz. Less than a thousand people turned out to listen.

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Jailed Ukrainian MP to commence hunger strike

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

A UKRAINIAN MP arrested for allegedly attacking a policeman has announced that he will go on indefinite hunger strike in prison starting today.

In two letters smuggled out of Kiev's Lukyanovskaya jail, Stepan Khamara, supreme soviet MP for the fiercely anti-communist region of Lvov, in western Ukraine, says that he is going on hunger strike because he was "set up" on the instructions of the republic's president, Leonid Kravchuk.

Mr Khamara also defiantly calls

for a campaign of civil unrest against the ruling Communist party to sweep it from power. In the first of his handwritten statements the MP writes: "This farce which is being played out and this set up case against me is to punish me as one of the main political opponents of the Communist party in the Ukraine."

The incident that sparked his arrest happened during November Revolution Day celebrations when a fight broke out between a plain-clothes police colonel and Mr Khamara.

Mr Khamara also defiantly calls

Soviet famine more fiction than fact

I

is the Soviet Union starving? Since last week's summit of leaders of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the cry has been that it virtually is. Germany is sending experts to assess the situation, and Germans are being urged to post food parcels. Official Soviet reports list the countries which have agreed or are in the process of agreeing to grant the Soviet Union favourable credits. The latest is Portugal.

The front pages of yesterday's Soviet newspapers reported shortages of meat, milk, potatoes and many other goods. Even

President Gorbachev has now admitted that the country needs outside help. At his press conference in Moscow on Friday he dropped his talk of "co-operation on equal terms" to speak for the first time of the need for

supplies of money and food.

To suggest, then, that reports of starvation may be exaggerated is to touch some sensitive nerves. More than half a century ago, as famine gripped the rich

farming areas of the Ukraine, the Soviet authorities and Western

travellers made common

cause to conceal the fact. Yet —

and no forecasts can be made for

the rest of the winter — there is

no evidence of starvation. The

evidence is rather of serious

economic dislocation coupled

with hoarding and black marketeering on a scale not seen since

the second world war. There is

widespread sickness and mal-

nourishment, but no famine.

After this year's relatively

good harvest there is no reason

why the Soviet Union should

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كما في الأصل

Amiens. Even the French government approves of British architects. Mr Rock Townsend and Mr Robert Macdonald were singled out in a recent French housing ministry competition to design an area of Paris public housing.

In Frankfurt British developers MZPC are planning a major office development using British architects Sidell Gibson. Spain offers enormous opportunities - 30 large retail schemes are in the pipeline. At Seville's Expo '92 the British pavilion by Mr Nicholas Grimshaw looks as though it will be the most exciting on the site.

Eastern Europe has its problems. But there is a language, bureaucracy and funding to name but three - but many architectural practices are approaching the challenge in highly enterprising ways, realising the long term potential of the large market.

In the eastern sector of Berlin a prominent British firm, Thorpe Trent is working on a 300,000 sq m business park.

Teams of British architects are

An outside interest beyond gloating

Hotels and tourism will of

practice, RIBA, is demonstrating

of eastern Europe that should

gladden the hearts of work-

ing architects in the UK.

There is enormous interest and

enthusiasm for younger British

design talents in Japan. One

architect, Mr David Chipper-

field, has just completed three

important projects in Japan:

the Gotoh Museum in the

Chiba Prefecture of Tokyo, the

headquarters in Okayama of

the Matsunoto Group, and a

design store in Tokyo. Mr

Nigel Coates, an amateur and

radical designer, has found an

outlet for his design fantasies

in night clubs and restaurants

in Tokyo. The high regard

which British architects and

designers receive abroad

makes architecture and design

a potential export leader.

There is another area where

architects have a great deal to

offer: some members of the

profession have been in the

vanguard when it comes to

green issues and the design of

"sustainable" environments.

Research and development of

architectural ideas concerned

with energy saving and pro-

tection are well advanced. The

work of a body such as the

National Energy Foundation or

the Milton Keynes Develop-

ment Corporation deserves to

be broadcast more widely.

For the time being it looks as

though the best of British

architectural thinking is for

export, but it is to be hoped

that recent important decisions

about infrastructure in London

will involve the design profes-

sions at an early stage.

In view of the growth of

London Docklands Enterprise

Zone and the architectural

workload figures recently

issued by the Royal Institute of

British Architects show a sharp

fall, and Department of

Environment figures

show an 18 per cent fall in

initial construction orders.

The architectural profession

is always the first to suffer

when recession hits the prop-

erty and construction industry

and current fears about the

future seem justified. Barriers

The RIBA and Carmargue

Communications now publish

quarterly figures called "RIBA

Leads" which show that pri-

ate sector non-housing com-

missions fall by 23 per cent

during the second quarter of

1990 and housing commissions

fall by the same amount.

Forecasts show that the

office market is likely to fall in

the next twelve months and a 15

per cent fall in the same period.

New markets for skilled

architects are opening up. The

architectural market has

become global and the poten-

tial for designers in the recov-

ery and redevelopment of east-

ern Europe is enormous.

The best British architectural

Deeper and wider

realising the long term pot-

tial of the large market.

In the eastern sector of Ber-

lin a prominent British firm,

Thorpe Trent is working on a

300,000 sq m business park.

Teams of British architects are

now visiting Prague helped by

the Czech architect Mr Jan

Kaplicky of Future Systems

who has long been exiled in

the UK. In the next few months

Mr Richard Rogers, Mr Terry

Farell, Mr Nicholas Grimshaw

and Mr James Stirling will

have the chance to see one of

Europe's finest surviving

Baroque cities.

The Seifert Group is working

on two hotels, The English

Court and the Rossays in

Moscow and on two large com-

mercial developments in Bud-

apest and the eastern sector of

unified Berlin. The hotel pro-

ject in Moscow is in a historic

building overlooking Red

Square and will provide visit-

ing businessmen with a chil-

like atmosphere and residen-

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Pens that put the knife in

Richard Mullen

A sudden plunge from power, particularly when erstwhile friends provide the fatal push, has long been a favourite theme in literature. It unites two strong emotions: jealousy when they fall. Novelists and dramatists have portrayed both the plight of the leader and the swirling emotions of the followers as they perpetuate a political *putch*.

Shakespeare gave a classic account of the two types of conspirators who pull down their leader: the envious Cassius — "such men as he be never at heart's ease whilst they behold a greater than themselves" — and the idealistic Brutus, who believed that Caesar's pre-eminence threatens the state. Almost every leader has had a Cassius, but a sitting prime minister can fall only when enough MPs follow Brutus's example and unsheathe their daggers to save the country, the party or themselves.

Shakespeare's images of political betrayal are embedded in the English mind. In 1830, the Duke of Wellington was forced to resign as prime minister when he was too outspoken in his opposition to the fall of the day, electoral reform.

The final blow came when three prominent cabinet ministers told him it was time to go.

Sir Robert Walpole is usually seen as the first prime minister. None of his successors has achieved either his longevity in office or the almost unanimous fondness of the literary celebrities of his time. The greatest of them, Samuel Johnson, provides the best semi-fictional account of a leader slowly being deserted by his friends. This was in 1742, when it was illegal to publish debates, and some people were therefore startled to read eloquent speeches by the main participants. These splendid orations were in fact written by Johnson in his garret in Exeter Street.

Horace Walpole, the most celebrated letter writer in the language, wryly observed how his master's house overflowed with treacherous friends protesting their loyalty. Charles Hanbury Williams, a member of Walpole's government and a minor poet, saw the plot in lines that could be repeated by later victims:

But how will Walpole justify his fate?
He trusted... till it was too late.
... Trusted to One he never could think true,
And perished by a villain that he knew.

That particularly English combination, the politician-novelist, from Disraeli to Jeffrey Archer, has usually found it more delightful to portray the making of a prime minister than the unmaking. Disraeli did provide one superb account of a prime minister's destruction by his own party, in his biography of Lord George Bentinck, with whom he led the Tory revolt against Sir Robert Peel's decision to repeal

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

The journalists' church of St Bride's in Fleet Street should hold an additional harvest thanksgiving service this week, for media people to offer gratitude for the windfall of the Tory leadership crisis.

What a bonanza! *Post!* as Spaniards exclaim — referring to a Bolivian mountain composed entirely of silver. This yuletide there will be turkey galore for everyone remotely associated with the gathering and purveying of news, while deposits are already lodged for winter breaks in the Caribbean.

If a leadership crisis did not exist, it would now be necessary to invent one. Maybe we did. To each journalist's child a train-set this Christmas; while those of us without children now move our cars on to a diet of pure Whiskas with rabbit.

Can we spin it out to a third ballot, do you think? Three more days of views, opinion polls and comment? Three more days of rumour and gossip?

"I've got some good stuff from the Major camp," I heard one lobby correspondent greet another in a Westminster corridor last week, "discreetly rubbishishing Hurd. I'm getting back to the Hurd camp for something to balance it, discreetly rubbishishing Major. Should make a nice little piece."

In the predatory pack that we media folk constitute, these, the lobby correspondents, are the big players: the lurkers, condors and Cape hunting dogs of the team. If some great political beast seems to be limping or breathing hard, these are the ones who first dart in for an exploratory peck, a lunge, snarl or nip of the leg, while the rest of us hover and chatter at a safe distance, watching.

Should the beast then stumble, or should the rest of its herd not gather to protect it, the lesser dogs move in. Mongrels from the tabloids, jackals from the Sundays, pedigrees from the quality magazines — clapped, nervous and always beautifully combed — circle around, converging. From the air above, magpies from the diary columns squeak and dive.

The beast is down and bellowing. The lurkers are in there, tearing flesh. Above, the

Douglas Hurd, talking to Simon Jenkins, denies that he is a Tory grandee and asserts that his handling of crises in previous jobs best equips him for the leadership

Cool hands in the kitchen

On give the vote to Barstshire. Give it to village fêtes and autumn leaves, to damp Cotswold stone and muddy churches, to a novel by the fire and a slice of jam sponge. Give it to honest England, and Douglas Hurd would win by a mile. The upstartly middle Majorites in their suburban lounges may deride him as the Duke of Oxminster. But he is no grandee. He is of Franky Parsonage, lightly rehabilitated by Laura Ashley.

From his Oxfordshire redoubt

last weekend, Mr Hurd was fighting from behind. Michael Heseltine had the rechts and the floating left. John Major had emerged as the Great Queen's youthful torch-bearer into the next generation. But Mr Hurd offers the old-time religion, highly regarded in the Tory party before it was seized by faction, coup and counter-coup: qualities of party unity, common sense and experience in office.

Hold Mr Hurd upside down and shake him, squeeze him, good him, but you will not get from him a murmur of criticism of his rivals, and certainly not of Mr Major. He would be the despair of an American primary organiser. Of Michael Heseltine, he permits himself the reflection that, "There is a clear feeling of outrage among active supporters at the way the prime minister had to leave office. I can see why Michael, after his open letter, had to run but I think it does make it more difficult for him."

Mr Heseltine had been lucky.

"He has been separate from government during a period when government has become unpopular. He has been able to go about the country and be identified as an alternative prime minister. He has been free as air."

Indeed, one participant has al-

ready drawn a memorable portrait of an ambitious MP conspiring against a sitting prime minister. In *Vote to Kill*, Douglas Hurd has a man of "second-rate mind" who storms about the country making speeches and "using his gifts to deceive and destroy" his own leader. Future historians may be disappointed to learn that the novel was published in 1975.

Novelists who want to see how

the conflictive emotions of the ultimate political crisis can find no better guide than Anthony Trollope. In *Phineas Finn*, he depicts the misery of a junior minister whose conscience reluctantly compels him to bring down a prime minister who has been good to him.

In *The Prime Minister*, Trollope

shows the deposition of a fallen

leader driven to resignation after some of his party desert him. "The violent deposition of a Prime Minister", says Trollope, "is always a memorable occasion."

This defeat comes after Sir Timothy Betwax explains in the Commons "how it came to pass that he found himself bound to leave the Ministry... [and] to say some very heavy things against his old chief". However, a more forthright colleague eulogises the defeated prime minister in words that have found many echoes this last week: "History will give you credit for patriotism, patience and courage. No man could have done it better than you did."

Richard Mullen is the author of

Anthony Trollope: A Victorian in His World (Duckworth).



Hurd the countryman relaxes with his family at the weekend. Downing Street seems a world away, but 'you see a beckoning finger, and you think all right, let's go where it beckons'

period, we were close to despair. We saw a prime minister of great energy and determination completely frustrated by a combination of inflation and trade union power. There was a feeling that even with a big government majority and a forceful prime minister, you just couldn't run the country.

Mr Heseltine has told us that

you can run the country. She

benefited from the first exper-

iment, from such things as the 1971

Industrial Relations Act. But she

and Norman Tebbit learned to do it right." Those years in Mr

Major's office — "not betrayal of

policy, just events going bang-

bang bang and shaking the policy

into a series of mashes" —

followed by the punishing poli-

cies of Northern Ireland, Home

Office and Foreign Office, give Mr

Hurd what he clearly regards as his

prime qualification for the leader-

ship, the experience of heat in the

kitchen, the calm in a crisis, the

soft pair of hands.

People are wrong to think that

a prime minister's time is spent at summits

or dealing with the crisis of the

moment. "There's a state visit, or the Queen to see, bishops to appoint or questions in the

House, and none of that can be

postponed. You have to learn

under great pressure to switch

your mind from something that is

dominating your life to something

you've just got to do. I have

learned how to do that."

"In all my jobs, the seven

o'clock news could bring disaster.

You came to recognise your

private secretary threading his

way towards you with a message.

You learn to brace yourself on

a bombshell police station or

a prison riot."

At the end of any great political

era, little sense is gained by picking over a politician's old policies. The

successful statesman (including

Mr Heseltine) is a political chameleons. Mr Heseltine was trained as a

lawyer and was good at it.

He is completely opposed to a

property tax of any sort? I don't

accept your premise — I don't yet

accept your premise — that the

cupboard of improvement is bare.

Having got where we are, it is not

possible in this parliament to

devise a new system. We cannot

make it up... in this parliament."

What of the issue that Mrs

Thatcher has already allowed as

the Great Mistake, the "Deutschmark inflation" of 1982-83? Does

he too think this was an error?

"Retrospectively it clearly was a

mistake, yes. The counter mea-

sures have been extraordinarily

slow to work." Ask him about the

reason for the mistake and Mr

Heseltine falls back on the formula

familiar to students of Britain's

European policy this past year,

that the prime minister herself

accepted the Madrid conditions

for ERM entry.

Mr Heseltine, in the eyes of the

Thatcherites, remains vulnerable

to the charge of being a creature

of the Eurocrats, prisoner of a

Foreign Office that did so little to

sustain Mrs Thatcher in hours of

need. Where does he stand on

those twin peaks of European

policy: sovereignty and subsidiarity,

on the propriety of rendering

to Brussels only what needs to

be rendered unto Brussels?

"There will be shifts of sov-

ereignty but only in specific areas

which I consider debatable.

The Community should lead as

external trade negotiator, though it's

making a mess of it now. The

prime minister's indignation on

that was one of the occasions on

which she was entirely justified.

She was right both technically and

inherently... in this parliament."

None of the candidates would

desire from that, or from most of

what Mr Heseltine says. In such a

general context, finding areas of

disagreement between them is a

matter of nuance, of body lan-

guage. But Mr Heseltine is too shrewd

a politician not to know what is at

issue. He asks the question of him-

self, if there is so little between

them, "then what the hell is it all

about?"

"Politics isn't only about policy.

It's about people, their capabilities

and their experience. We have a

crisis in the party, with an election

18 months away. There is the Gulf,



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

DIPLOMACY'S LAST DITCH

The United Nations has until the end of this week to demonstrate its collective will to force Iraq out of Kuwait. America, which holds the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council this month, has waited until the last moment before asking the UN this Thursday to authorise military action if Iraq refuses to withdraw by January 1. The move has been left until late because failure to agree would gravely damage the international consensus without diminishing the absolute necessity of defeating Iraq. Further delay was impossible, however: America had to take the plunge before Yemen, an ally of Iraq which opposes the use of force, takes over the chair on Saturday for December.

Success is not assured, but Washington had no sensible alternative. The United Nations has responded well, if sometimes tardily, to the threat to international peace posed by Iraq's aggression. The Security Council's ten resolutions since August 2 have all been supported by at least 13 of its 15 members. No state has sought to water down the UN's stern demands for unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and restoration of Kuwait's legal government. The UN has thus earned the right to be put to the ultimate proof.

President Bush and the American secretary of state, James Baker, have worked hard to minimise the risk of a rebuff. They have consulted all the 14 other governments on the council except Cuba, some of them many times. The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, last week brought the Kremlin's influence to bear on China, the most reluctant to endorse military action of the five permanent members. Mr Baker must now judge that none of the five permanent members will resort to a veto and that he has more than the minimum of nine votes needed for success. By convening the council at foreign minister level, he hopes to emphasise the gravity of the stakes and to secure a speedy decision.

Wise, the Americans have also declined to challenge the UN to invoke Article 42 of the UN Charter, involving truly collective use of force "by land, sea and air". That article would oblige all states to contribute whatever assistance the Security Council requested. But never in its history has the UN agreed to act under Article 42. Members might haver for weeks before taking such a step. Or they might get bogged down in protracted arguments about whether to place the forces under UN

command, even though to do so would be a political handicap and a military nonsense.

The draft now being circulated among the five permanent members sensibly takes resolution 665 of August 26, which sanctioned a naval blockade to enforce sanctions against Iraq, as its precedent. Resolution 665 was a masterpiece of obliquity, nowhere mentioning the words "blockade" or "force". While clearly requesting all states to do whatever was needed to bring all trade with Iraq to a halt, it left naval commanders in the area to decide the "measures commensurate" with that objective. Similarly, this resolution would call on individual states to take all necessary measures to secure Iraq's withdrawal, if a peaceful solution is not achieved by January 1.

The decision to present President Saddam Hussein with a deadline appears to have been forced on Washington by France and the Soviet Union. Both have insisted that military action must not be seen as the automatic consequence of the UN passing a resolution. They argue that the date will concentrate Saddam's mind, while leaving a window open for diplomacy.

Setting a deadline precludes further argument about the size of that window. But in the short term, any deadline gives Saddam diplomatic and even military opportunities. He will make the most of the interval to intensify his mental torment of the families of foreign hostages by alternately raising their hopes and increasing their fears. He can husband his military resources secure in the knowledge that no strike is imminent. Should he intend to attack Israel as a last-ditch bid to split the alliance, he will know when he must strike.

The Americans have accepted that a deadline is essential to secure the resolution's passage, but in doing so have forfeited the chance to launch a surprise attack. If force has to be used against Iraq, a formidable enemy, the commanders in the field must be given as much freedom as possible to maximise their advantage. January 1 is Washington's proposal and it is a tighter deadline than the two months sought by some of its allies. Since that date still permits some narrow leeway for choosing the moment to attack, the US should hold its ground. However important the endorsement of the United Nations may be, it is a sufficient but not a necessary condition for the use of force. Nothing is as important as victory.

POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY

Has the press exercised power without responsibility over the fall of Margaret Thatcher? Has a great prime minister been thrown from office because of the bloodlust — or at least the newswant — of a newspaper cabal? Her loyal acolytes are saying so. For them, Mrs Thatcher's demise cannot be her fault. Villains must be found, assassins accused, the "Get Thatcher" brigade exposed. The media thus join Michael Heseltine in the dock.

Such views mistake the press's relationship with politics. In the first place, newspapers are competitive, not monopolistic. Each of the five serious dailies is separately owned and edited, as are the five quality Sundays. That they could form a conspiracy to bring about the downfall of any prime minister is a myth beloved of paranoid politicians. This was when Lords Northcliffe, Beaverbrook and Rothermere could attempt such an exercise but not today, and least of all in the case of Mrs Thatcher. She enjoyed support from a majority of newspapers and was urged to stay in the leadership by many, including *The Times*.

Modern newspapers are seldom free to set their own agenda independent of current events. The market is too fierce for that. Today's press faces competition from the electronic media, especially from the burgeoning news programmes on radio and television. Quality newspapers cannot suppress events, nor can they create controversies where none exist. Events dictate news coverage; coverage does not dictate events.

The crumbling of Mrs Thatcher's position began with the poll tax, the 1989-90 inflation, the rows over Europe and Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation. This policy substance was magnified by the impact that the prime minister's style had made on her colleagues after 11½ assertive years at the top. True, had the leadership contest been determined by an electoral college of party members or the voters at large, the press might have been accused of generating the destructive hysteria. But this

YORKSHIRE'S CRICKET TEST

There's trouble over Yorkshire County Cricket Club. The 23 members of the club's general management committee will tomorrow vote on whether to follow the rest of England by recruiting outside the county. Last time the proposal came up, they threw it out. The controversy was always fierce, but this time it has turned ugly, after claims of racial bias on the part of Yorkshire's selectors.

Several incidents in which a minority of the club's supporters behaved disgracefully towards black members of opposing teams have fuelled these suspicions, though such conduct is not confined to Yorkshire and is not condoned by the club. But the admission of outsiders to the team has become a symbolic test of tolerance. Justly or not, Yorkshire cricket's reputation for fair play is now at stake.

If the progressives, including Geoffrey Boycott, win the day, cricketers from the Commonwealth could soon be signed. If the traditionalists, led by Brian Close and Fred Trueman, prevail, the charge that the club harbours prejudice, not only against everyone born outside Yorkshire, but against black or Asian Yorkshiremen too, will be hard to refute. This charge remains unproven. However, even though the team's captain and manager dismayed by poor results — want open recruitment and young black and Asian players have been included in training programmes,

electoral college is just 372 strong. It communicates by means of teacup gossip, telephone and fax machine. It has no need of the media.

So much the newspapers can plead in their defence, but not much more. Newspapers cannot have it both ways. They cannot hand down judgments of stentorian import on political events and then, when criticised as being irresponsible in their influence, claim no greater role in affairs than as fish and chip wrappers. "Facts are the shadows which statements cast on things," said the philosopher. In a world in which not everything can be reported, selection of the news-worthy necessarily means exclusion and thus censorship. Since newspapers are a prime means of political communication with voters, they cannot pretend this selection is without influence.

The opinion polls have long shown that Mr Heseltine is a better vote-getter than Mrs Thatcher. Any newspaper commissioning a poll is, by accident or design, helping his campaign. Conservative MPs read leading articles and columnists. They would not waste the time if they meant to disregard the opinions expressed therein. In a close-fought contest, such opinion can be decisive. Feature material reveals, or conceals, aspects of a candidate's personal or family life that might influence a vote, especially in a contest in which policy differences are so minimal.

The media amplifies. There is no device, statutory or voluntary, that will disrupt the dynamics of a news story as it gathers pace, even if it were desirable to do so. The fate of a great prime minister is a news story of gigantic proportions. Newspapers must try to select material fairly and to express their views fully. *The Times* believes its views will be most considered if formed only when the campaign debate has run its course, irritating though this may be to some readers. Its verdict will appear tomorrow. There, the responsibility of newspapers ends and that of politicians begin.

I am a long-term Conservative voter who would have abstained at the next election if Margaret Thatcher was still prime minister — one, I am sure, of many who feel the same way.

Yours faithfully,
JUNE T. FEARNE,
63 Tachbrook Road,
Feltham, Middlesex.
November 22.

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Bricho
Sir, "The positive gaity of her courage" was the felicitous expression used by Ronald Butt ("A missionary in politics", November 23) to describe Margaret Thatcher's performance in the House of Commons yesterday. She elevated a sordid and mean occasion into a magnificent and, indeed, liberating experience. Her display of strength comforted her supporters, discomfited her enemies and set an awesome example for those who design to assume her mantle of leadership.

Faithfully yours,
SIDNEY BRICHTO,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.
November 23.

From Mr M. W. W. Vowden
Sir, Amid the sentiment about "ingratuity" and "betrayal", Ronald Butt's masterly evaluation of the Thatcher years is a beacon before her.

4p11/10/90

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Round two battle lines for tomorrow's contestants

From Mr John L. Davies

Sir, The hostile reaction in certain quarters against Mr Michael Heseltine is ill-considered and illogical. The only person to blame for Mrs Thatcher's political demise is herself, not her opponent or Sir Geoffrey Howe or indeed any of her former ministers who have felt compelled to put principles before power.

It is of course regrettable given

her conspicuous achievements on the international stage and the resolution of certain major domestic problems that the prime minister has been obliged to resign by reason of the deep divisions within her own party and the unpopular impact of certain policies passed by her and her cabinet. Mr Hurd and Mr Major must share responsibility for part of this management or leadership failure, and their credibility in the race for leadership is understandably tainted by what has gone on before.

It is reasonably clear that the gap between the three contestants over Europe is not divisive. The failure of Mr Hurd and Mr Major to offer any solace or constructive proposal in respect of the community charge suggests that a government led by either of them is unlikely to withstand the scrutiny of the electorate in the longer term.

Mr Heseltine has so far conducted his campaign with commendable dignity; he has a valid claim to the moral high ground of having previously placed principle before power, and offers the government an exit route from certain of the unpopular policies that have contributed to the present crisis. His selection would confirm to the electorate that the Conservative party favours changes of substance and not just style.

The criticism of Mr Heseltine's

ability to unite the party also fails to withstand close scrutiny. It is unlikely that he would wish to dispense with either Mr Hurd or Mr Major, and if he were to

include Sir Geoffrey Howe in his cabinet, possibly as Lord Chancellor, party unity would swiftly follow. In this respect I hope Mrs Thatcher's antipathy towards Mr Heseltine will not influence Tory MPs into rejecting the obvious and best solution to their party's present electoral unpopularity.

The selection of Mr Heseltine

would also guarantee the continued eclipse of Mr Kinnock as a parliamentary debater. That guarantee is less certain if either of the other two contestants were elected. It will be a Conservative disaster if a disloyal loyalty to Mrs Thatcher or to those who share responsibility for her policies operates to defeat the most obvious candidate able to ensure that Mr Kinnock is excluded from power.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN L. DAVIES,
24 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
November 23.

From Mrs Anne Norris
and Mrs Ali Bohm

Sir, Times readers will no doubt be interested to read the results of the poll carried out today (November 23) at Queen's College, Harley Street, London. Voters were all female, aged 11 to 18.

Of 249 votes cast the results were as follows:

John Major 98 (39.5%); Douglas Hurd 71 (28.8%); Michael Heseltine 63 (25.5%); spoiled votes 17.

It appears that Heseltine is not

attractive to the younger female

electorate.

Yours faithfully,

ANNE NORRIS,
36 Fortwell Close,
Rustington, West Sussex.
November 23.

From Mr Martin Drew

Sir, As a grassroots Conservative who has in election campaigns I do not blame Michael Heseltine for dividing the party. The party is in trouble because of the prime minister's divisive attitude on Europe and because of the ill-thought-out community charge legislation which she and Nicholas Ridley bamboozled the party into accepting.

Michael Heseltine's actions in the last two weeks have saved the party from certain defeat in the next general election and he deserves the gratitude of all Conservatives, and the votes of the party's members in parliament.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN DREW,
24 High Street, SW1.

From Mrs Roslyn Pine

Sir, Mr Michael Gross's assessment (November 23) is widely off the mark. The choice of Mr Heseltine as leader (perish the thought) would only compound the agony. The grass roots of the Tory party and the floating voters will never forget that it was Mr Heseltine's relentless pursuit of ambition that has deprived this country of its democratically elected prime minister.

She has treated her cabinet

ministers shabbily, not making

good use of their individual

talents and wisdom. I admire the

courage of Sir Geoffrey Howe in

his resignation speech refreshingly

speaking from the heart (some

thing ministers rarely seem to do

these days) and in so doing

opening up the challenge for a

change in leadership of the Con-

servative party. I look forward to

the next prime minister (hopefully

Michael Heseltine) governing this

country firmly with a united cabi-

net of respected ministers.

Yours faithfully,

CAROLE MAGONI,

The Waldrons, Queens Road,

Crowborough, East Sussex.

November 22.

From Lydia, Duchess of Bedford

Sir, I hope that her successor is in the same mould — made me shudder.

The sad truth is that a great

missionary, after years of brilliant

achievement, has thrown it into jeopardy

the permanence of her best

work, and with it the future of her

country, by her own wanton negl-

ection of the most elementary rules

of party political management.

In the same mould? No. No!

Yours faithfully,

M. W. W. VOWDEN,

19 Madras Road,

Barnes, SW13.

November 23.

From Mr D. R. Hylton

Sir, The sight yesterday of so

many hypocrites waving their

parliamentary papers in support

of the prime minister after her

magnificent defence of this gov-

ernment's record made me recoil

in disgust.

If it was not for the ludicrous

vision of Neil Kinnock entering

No. 10 Downing Street I would

abstain from voting in the next

election: though if Michael

Heseltine stands, so too will my

abstention.

Yours faithfully,

D. R. HYLTON,

35 Hampton Park,

Redland,

Bristol, Avon.

November 23.

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Bricho

In his first interview as education secretary, Kenneth Clarke tells David Tyler of his plain-speaking, no-nonsense plans for education

Tough talk from the new master

Kenneth Clarke, the new education secretary, and the man charged with bringing credibility back to the state education system, conducted a personal opt-out of comprehensive education in the Seventies when he sent his two children to independent schools.

Mr Clarke, a grammar school boy who went on to study law at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, was living in Birmingham at the time, and says that he did not send his children to the local comprehensive because academic standards were so low that the school could muster only between 11 and 11 O-levels a year.

"We lived in a middle-class enclave where one of my neighbours was a Labour city councillor who took the same view," he says. "People, even with Marxist principles, agreed with me. The moderates bought a house in Solihull, where there were good schools, and they could say they were remaining true to their principles of using the state system. You either paid through the mortgage or the fees."

Mr Clarke is clear that you do not set about improving standards by attacking the elite. The answer, he says, is to improve the state schools so that parents are happy to send their children to them.

Under his administration there are unlikely to be any major new initiatives, but there will be changes. Mr Clarke says that he hopes local authorities will use the opportunity to opt out of national negotiations to recruit the teaching force best suited to their needs.

"They could, for example, pay for out-of-school activities or a longer school week," he says, "but they have to bear in mind whether they can afford it." It may be, he adds, that the local authorities could find the extra money by having "fewer people paid more; that's the kind of thing they can decide".

He hints, however, that increased resources might be available for education: "I don't mind spending money as long as you get something for it." He is not prepared to find the "ridiculous" £45 million that the unions

believe is necessary to introduce teacher appraisal in all 109 local education authorities. He is, nevertheless, on the verge of overturning John MacGregor's decision that it should only be introduced on a voluntary basis and not made compulsory, as originally envisaged.

He is looking at teacher assessment "carefully", he says, and adds: "Things have changed since John made his decision, and it is apparent that it is not working on a voluntary basis." At the moment, only a handful of education authorities operate assessment schemes. More local authorities, it is believed, would be more prepared to remove the bad teacher, after an unfavourable report on performance and after all remedial attempts had failed, if all councils were bound by the same rules.

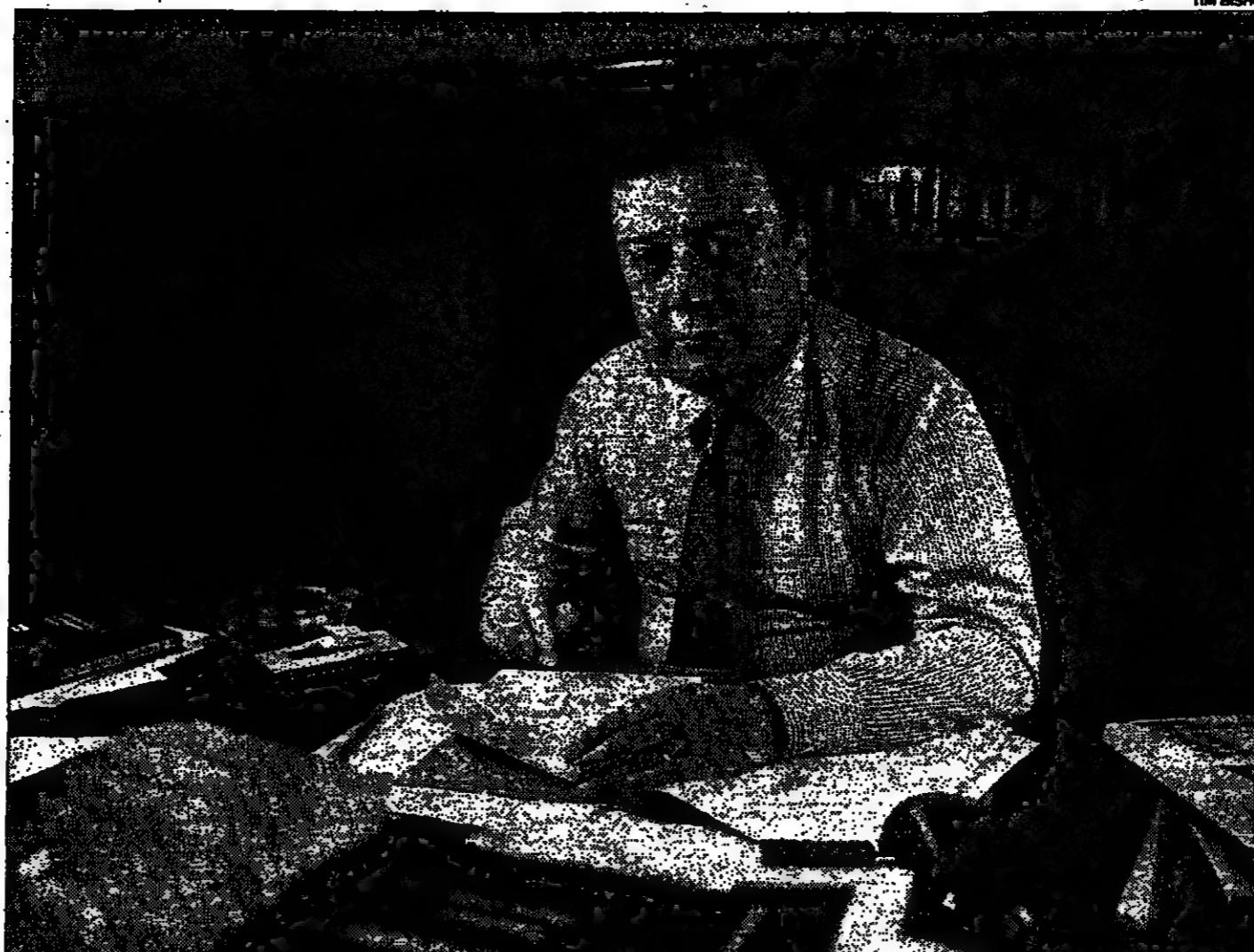
Mr Clarke's school advisers will also find a tough opponent.

The first issue is likely to be with the National Curriculum Council, which was asked by Mr MacGregor to consider which compulsory subjects could be dropped at 14 to allow children to take other GCSE courses in, for example, the three sciences, the classics and economics. Mr MacGregor suggested that they might consider dropping art, music and physical education, while combining other subjects such as history and geography. The request was turned down by the council earlier this month when it said that all pupils should study all ten curriculum subjects up to the age of 16 although it might be possible to combine some and reduce the teaching time in others.

"It is not instantly apparent that they have taken in what has been said," Mr Clarke says. "The curriculum must not become prescriptive and exclude the whole variety of options that people want to exercise."

He says plain speaking, and a no-nonsense approach to unions and the education establishment, will be the hallmarks of his administration.

He told Mrs Thatcher that, unlike her, he did not support the idea of education vouchers and made his opposition public soon



Getting down to business: "I don't mind spending money as long as you get something for it," says the Secretary of State for Education

after he was appointed. "I wanted to get it out of the way."

He claims to have been "asleep" when Mrs Thatcher asked him to move from the health department to education, after Mr MacGregor's appointment as Leader of the House to replace Sir Geoffrey Howe. "I told my staff the night before that the

feeling of public unease which they have articulated, but without providing any particular remedies," he says. "We have to reassure the public that we are addressing standards and improving them."

He is derisive of Labour policy, which rests, he says, on nothing other than reversing all the de-

commit himself, but it is clear that he intends to increase the number of schools that choose to opt out of local authority control. The government is disappointed that the number so far stands at only 56.

"The present arrangements are complicated, but that is not the main problem," he says. "The present difficulty is a political one, with schools concerned that, having been allowed to opt out, a Labour government will turn the decision over."

"But there is safety in numbers, and I believe there will be a flood of applications after John MacGregor's decision to allow all schools to opt out. When there are hundreds of them, as I envisage, it will be much more difficult for the Labour party to abandon them."

Mr Clarke is awaiting advice from the School Examinations and Assessment Council (Seac) on how and whether A-levels should be changed to "broaden" sixth-form education and to encourage more teenagers to stay on in education or training after 16.

He made it clear that he would not change A-levels, but would

Mr Clarke is clear that you do not set about improving standards by attacking the élite. The answer, he says, is to improve the state schools

cisions of his opponents, such as returning grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges to local authority control and phasing out the assisted places scheme, which often government help to less well-off families whose children are accepted for independent education.

After only two weeks in his new job, Mr Clarke is reluctant to

name two cabinet ministers who would not be moved, because of the reforms going through, were John MacGregor and me," he says.

Many believe that Mr Clarke has been appointed to present more rugged opposition to Labour, which has made the running in promoting education as the most important issue in the run up to a general election. "There is a

lot of work to do," he says. "The

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Drawing up the lines of battle

The battle being fought over the future shape of courses in architecture is becoming increasingly bitter. The dispute, about plans to shorten courses, which has already forced the government into court, is seen as a prototype for similar exchanges in other professions.

Architectural education has been in a state of periodic turmoil for almost a decade, usually over the number of students the profession can support and the number of schools necessary to produce them. There have been divisions at times, even within the professional bodies, on that score.

No sooner has that question apparently been settled, however, than an even more fundamental one arises.

John MacGregor, as education secretary, proposed in May that the architects' traditional five-year higher education course be reduced to four years, restructuring it to ensure that the essential content was retained.

Although the architects themselves have insisted that such a change would cause irreparable damage to standards, the higher education funding councils, which were the first bodies to be consulted, have, notably, failed to spring to their aid.

Instead, students on existing courses have been caught up in the dispute after a discovery that the award of a first degree after three years made mandatory grants for four years illegal.

That, in turn, has brought in other professions whose courses are a similar length. Medical degrees at Oxford, Cambridge and Nottingham, and town and country planning courses throughout the country, are now being examined to see whether they also fall foul of the regulations.

The education department has insisted it had no alternative but to withdraw the grants after receiving legal advice, but its later decision to delay the introduction of a permanent new system until after the course review has brought accusations that students have been used to step up pressure in the wider dispute.

The department's reaction has also confirmed the architects' view that they stand as proxy for other professions that will be required to shorten their courses if the MacGregor proposal goes through.

For this year at least, students are being offered bursaries that should compensate for their loss of grants and fee payments. The Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) is challenging the government's ruling in the High Court before Christmas, but any

The Royal Institute of British Architects is fighting cuts in student grants and government plans to trim courses, John O'Leary reports, and there are fears that the threat may spread to other professions.



Down but not out: members of a Riba class in action, but will students be the first to suffer cuts?

change would come too late to be implemented before the summer term. The real issue remains the length of courses.

As far back as 1985, in a green paper on higher education, the government established the principle that professions should normally pay for extended training beyond the traditional first-degree period. Since then, however, ministers have been more concerned to hold back the trend towards longer courses in science and engineering than to set about shortening others. Oxford, Cam-

bridge and Imperial College, London, have all started introducing four-year degrees in engineering and others would like to follow suit.

The savings from a year's reduction in architecture would not be great. Riba estimates that only £300,000 a year would be saved, although the education department argues that no accurate calculation is possible until the final shape of a four-year course is determined. However, only if the change led to the closure of one of the schools of

architecture would the amount become substantial.

The department insists that the proposals are not intended primarily to save money, but to produce a more efficient education for architects. In putting his plans to Riba, Mr MacGregor referred to concern about weaknesses in existing courses, inefficiency in the use of time and resources, and the desirability of transferring some training from schools to architectural practices.

Mr MacGregor said in his letter: "Expensive though medical, den-

tal and veterinary studies are, the basic cost-effectiveness of their present arrangements has not been called into question. It is hard to say the same in relation to architectural education."

The department's consultation document mentioned the position in law and accountancy, where graduates undertake further part-time study before qualification, in asking whether it is reasonable for architectural students to have more than four years' support from the public purse.

The department has put forward four possible models for the seven years of education and practice architects believe to be necessary before registration. They include the retention of split courses over a reduced timescale, a four-year, full-time course and alternative mixtures of sandwich and full-time courses. The consultation paper also leaves open the possibility of different schools operating a variety of course structures.

In its submission last week, Riba did not even consider the possible organisation of a four-year course, arguing that a satisfactory education would not be possible over a shortened period. Riba has already decided that all its members should take updating courses in addition to the five years.

The association points out that five years is now the norm for an initial qualification throughout the world and that new requirements, not least from the government, all add to the amount of knowledge architects need.

Maxwell Hutchinson, the president of Riba, says: "It is not only architects who will suffer if the course is reduced to four years. Architecture will suffer as well. Not even our sternest critics have ever argued that architects are over-educated."

He adds that the issue is one of the government's attitude to higher education and not one for architectural education alone.

That is the reason why the proposals have attracted the attention they have. Although ministers insist there is no intention to extend the principle to medicine, dentistry and veterinary studies, the larger student numbers in those subjects would produce significant savings if costs could be transferred to the professions.

The professional bodies are watching closely, already brusquely from past battles with Kenneth Clarke, the new education secretary. Few expect him to spare the architects, who may soon have to begin thinking the unthinkable about four-year courses.

The language of winning business

A four-day intensive course

in Spanish was all it took to enable Julie Ann Morse, the European sales director of Shore-Line, the American veterinary equipment manufacturer, to exhibit at a trade fair in Barcelona. After 40 hours' tuition in German, Dr Dennis Briars, the managing director of Techok, an engineering company in Port Talbot, south Wales, could communicate with colleagues in Frankfurt and understand Germany's product quality regulations.

Both are former students of Swansea University's Centre for Applied Language Studies, where Dr Jim Milton is pioneering rapid learning techniques for adults.

"We cater mainly for the business community and tailor courses to meet individual companies' needs," he explains. "Learners are taught the vocabulary necessary to fulfil specific tasks, such as negotiating, holding a general conversation, or answering the telephone. For example, if an engineer wants to understand technical drawings compiled by a sister company in Paris, we focus on appropriate terms and ensure that he has sufficient French to telephone a colleague with queries. In Britain we have a phobia about languages. We do not think we can speak French or German unless we are fluent. That is a wrong attitude because most people do not need fluency. They just want an ability to communicate clearly and be nice to customers."

Mrs Morse agrees. "I was taught sufficient Spanish to greet clients, explain the equipment and discuss prices. That, plus how to find my way around in Spain, was all I wanted to know."

She admits the course was

tiring, as it involved learning 2,500 new words in four days, and expensive at £800. However, with one-to-one tuition throughout, and all lessons geared to enabling her to succeed in Spain, she says the course was worth the effort and the money. The Spanish is still handy, as she has to keep in touch by telephone with the buyers she met at the exhibition.

For Dr Briars, too, the one-to-one tuition was the key to the success of the course. "The role-play situations have helped me to converse with potential customers, essential for a company such as ours, which exports 75 per cent of its output," he says. "With

IOLA SMITH

verment to China. A learner from the King Abdul Aziz Military Academy, in Saudi Arabia, has a more urgent mission. He is learning the English vocabulary necessary to understand the Western weapon systems being deployed in the Gulf. Although Swansea specialises in teaching languages to adults, Dr Milton and his students are convinced that the best time to learn is childhood.

Caroline Munro, a Parisienne who arrived in Wales four years ago, wanted her children, aged four and three, to retain their French culture and established a French Saturday school in Cardiff.

"At first, only French speakers attended," she recalls, "but now, a year after the school opened, more than half our pupils aged from three to 11 are British. They come for a good grounding before starting formal lessons in French at secondary school."

Mrs Munro, who charges £3 per pupil per day, is helped by three French nationals but, as none is a qualified teacher, she hopes the French education ministry will finance a qualified member of staff. "With more pupils turning up every week, more staff are needed, particularly as I am planning to run evening classes to meet demand," she says.

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She blames the parents

Whatever happened to the notion of a happy childhood? Even without physical abuse, children suffer "fantasies of danger and death, anxieties so enormous they're hardly bearable, evoking fear and a slow burying of feelings which were once eager and intense... cruelty often the more terrifying for being masked".

We are all victims of our parents, caring around a load of anxiety and aggression imposed by them and passing it on unwittingly to our babies. All right, but this doomy view of life is a temporary effect of reading the latest self-discovery book, *How to Survive in Spite of Your Parents*, by Margaret Reinhold, the respected veteran psychotherapist.

Dr Reinhold has seen too much pain: she can no longer witness the most commonplace supermarket altercation without plunging into agonised empathy: "Tight-lipped mothers drag shrieking offspring bodily along the heartless rows of washing powders and tinned food... Little faces, set in silent despair, break down; and when the toys on display, which are meant to tempt, are removed by tiny hungry hands, angry mothers snatch them back, loudly reprimanding."

There is some irony, perhaps, in the fact that a book designed to free people emotionally wounded in childhood from unconscious guilt and self-loathing will undoubtedly be read by numerous parents of present-day children, plunging them into fits of guilt and remorse instead.

Extremes of physical and mental cruelty we could perhaps rule out in our own households, but Dr Reinhold's professional caseload is agonisingly studded with horrid tales: the child who was unusually still and quiet in the womb because of his mother's anxiety about the father's attitude; Linda, whose mother got back late from trips away and who thereafter dreaded the moment when her own babies were born and the cord was cut.

Then there is Marie-Claire, who had countless disastrous affairs because she had been too fond of her father when she was three; Thomas, whose widowed mother's devoted

Libby Purves meets a therapist whose book seems designed to strike fear into mothers and fathers: do they need it?

love led to sexual confusion and a suicide attempt; John, whose mother spent long periods writing and not talking to him, and ended up impotent... no, stop, stop.

In a world where "permanent emotional damage may be done to a child by the absence of parents for any length of time — even a holiday", and where the holiday itself might be a cunningly masked act of aggression to the child you thought you loved, knowing one's own motives is clearly impossible without professional help.

"I wish we could get rid of this myth that all natural parents adore their children and vice versa. It does immense harm."

myself, and, when I saw her with grandchildren, being hostile to the younger one."

Knowing this, she found the curious release and happiness experienced by many people who discover such a simple truth in analysis: it set her on her life's work. From neurology, she moved to psychiatry, originally for professional advancement, and disliked it. "In the Sixties they were using convulsive treatment, all sorts of weird ideas — I lost it all

in this classic state of mingled fear and aggression. I approached the author herself not in her Harley Street consulting rooms, for she retired to France five years ago, but in a peaceful London hotel. Dr Reinhold is equally peaceful: a handsome, strong-faced woman who gives every question (or indeed idle remark) the close, concentrated attention of a practised psychotherapist.

The book is meant for people who are unhappy and damaged," she said. "There are millions of them, and most will start out by claiming that they had a happy childhood. Children find it almost impossible to admit that their parents are anything but wonderful and impeccable. They take all the blame on themselves.

"I am talking about lack of love, and lack of love is more common than our culture will admit. We have got a wrong idea that the biological parents are always better than foster parents or relatives or anyone else; it isn't true," she says.

"I wish we could get rid of this myth that all natural parents adore all their children and vice versa. It isn't true and it does immense harm. It stops parents from admitting their

own aggressive feelings and dealing sensibly with them."

Her own childhood, in South Africa, is instructive. "It was unhappy. My mother was unkind and deprived me emotionally. She preferred my elder sister, because she herself had had a younger brother who stole the limelight from her, and made her hostile to younger children. I didn't understand this until much later, when I'd had therapy

except for the area of psychotherapy, which seemed to be rational and helpful."

In her 25 years of private practice, she says she has developed a relaxed, more casual approach than the traditional voice-behind-a-screen analyst with a couch. "I converse rather than leave long silences." She also admits that not all members of her profession do, that analysis is not universally desirable.

"Some patients benefit more by rationalisation and support than by going right into their past; it takes intelligence and character to face up to some kinds of damage," she says. In Britain, it also takes broad-mindedness to venture into analysis at all, despite the "Me culture" of the past 20 years, with saloon-bar psychology in every magazine and jargon such as "low self-esteem" tripping from every half-educated tongue. "most people say 'Pull yourself together,'" Dr Reinhold says. "They are distinctly opposed to the idea of having an unconscious mind." The book might help.

For normal patients (are

there such?), it might at least encourage self-examination. Or, even better, social questioning. There are curious insights into the oddness of our culture and the way it increases damage: the sentimental insistence that parents automatically love children ("Really not so, and it would be a help to unloved children if we admitted it") and the unnatural nature of the modern family.

"If there are grannies and aunts and uncles all living close together, a child has a better chance of finding someone who actually does love and respect it. Parents take on complete emotional responsibility, which is unnatural and hard." For a one-parent family, she adds, it is appalling hard.

But is there not such a thing as a real happy childhood? Of course there is. There must be millions of secure, sensible, aware parents. It is a question of loving your child and being conscious of the importance you hold in its life." And the supermarket altercations? "Actually," Dr Reinhold says reassuringly, "if a child is loved and valued, and knows it, you can be quite harsh about small things and it doesn't matter."

• *How to Survive in Spite of Your Parents*, by Margaret Reinhold, is published by Heinemann (£14.99)

Walking wounded: Dr Reinhold says there are millions of "unhappy and damaged" people

Opening doors for the retired

Who can counsel the less than retiring on the challenges of retirement?

One of the most striking cases that Allin Coleman has dealt with as an expert on change and retirement was that concerning the doorman of a famous London hotel. "For 50 years the man had met royalty from all over the world, wearing a grand uniform. One day he was the doorman there — the next day he had gone. Can you imagine what that was like?"

Mr Coleman, aged 62, is a pioneer in what he calls "change management" in Britain and Europe, and a consultant to British companies such as Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountants. The label "retirement expert" displease him, not only because he has himself retired several times but because the word retirement is, he believes, a bad one.

"Retirement is simply another major change in our lives. It can come at any age and for a variety of reasons. Nowadays it can come many times, as people go in and out of paid work. The important thing is not to become a casualty along the way."

Those who may find it most difficult to adjust to change are, he says, those who are addicted to achievement, who feel they are indispensable. "Politicians are a prime example and I am seriously thinking of setting up a course for them — such a wonderful challenge, such potential casualties."

How Margaret Thatcher will come to terms with a career change depends, says Mr Coleman, on how unpredictable it was. "Involuntary and unpredictable change involved all sorts of grappling with feelings. Negative feelings such as anger and methods of coping with that — whatever each person's method might be, such as heavy smoking or drinking — will be seen. Mrs Thatcher may well need to exchange one form of work for another and throw herself into it."

But what? "In general, when workaholics retire they don't do very well if they are single-minded," says Dr Anthony Clare, the psychiatrist. "They tend to take up board appointments and so on but aren't very happy in that. It is hard to see Mrs Thatcher doing that: how could they control her?"



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DANCE

First steps towards a fresh start

London Contemporary Dance Theatre is in search of both a new artistic director and a new relevance, as Debra Craine reports

A British arts organisation that runs with a slight surplus, a modern dance company with its own school and theatre, the freeholder owner of a chunk of prime central London real estate: the riches of London Contemporary Dance Theatre are unique in the world. Yet some observers are poised, pen in hand, ready to write its obituary as a progenitor of artistic riches. Having given birth to a generation of new choreographers over the past 20 years, the parent of modern dance in this country has become a dinosaur, threatened with extinction and struggling to reassert its authority. However, there are signs that the dinosaur is stirring.

This week, as LCDT presents its annual London season at Sadler's Wells, its administration is grappling with the problem of how to ensure the company's creative future as it hunts for a new artistic director. This is the second time in two years that the post has been vacant, and this time the board of directors must make the right appointment. It cannot afford to make the same mistake it made last year when it named Dan Wagoner, a reluctant recruit at best, to succeed Robert Cohan, who retired after two decades. Now, only 18 months after taking over, Wagoner is stepping down to return to New York.

Lacklustre artistic leadership, first during Cohan's final years and then under Wagoner's tenure, has taken its toll. With a few notable exceptions, almost all of the most exciting contemporary choreography being done in Britain today is happening outside its domain. The most distinguished of its alumni, such as Richard Alston and Siobhan Davies, are running other companies, while the younger generation of dance-makers prefer to work on a smaller scale with their own troupe.

Years on the treadmill of Arts Council-dictated regional touring have dragged the company down, its artistic thrust compromised by being forced into a mainstream that had LCDT placed in theatres that were too big for its natural

audience and then being told to fill them. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the excitement and risk-taking of its mid-Seventies heyday have lost their edge. Only inspired artistic leadership can reverse the decline.

The man leading the search for a new director is Peter Sarah, a 44-year-old Australian appointed chief executive of Contemporary Dance Trust in August. Sarah is well aware that LCDT is working to a deadline: "To simply continue along the same lines I think could end up being fatal. The challenge is to find an artistic director who has a point of view, who is going to make a bold statement for the Nineties."

"In shorthand, our view is that if it is simply more of the same, or business as usual, I think we will fade, and there is no recognition that if we are to have a role and have a function, and by extension be funded, we need to have a relevance to the Nineties. And I think we have probably got at the most 18 months to fix that."

Finding a director with the right point of view will not be easy. The list of suitable candidates is small, and the fact that most of them are American says something about the impoverished state of mainstream contemporary dance in Britain today. Greater issues are at stake, too: if our system has not produced someone appropriate to lead a large-scale contemporary dance company in the past 20 years, either something is wrong with dance in this country or there is something wrong with the idea of a repertory company.

"One of the challenges is to find the generation of choreographers that in part went unnoticed by us in the Eighties, the generation of choreographers, dancers, designers happy to work within the parameters of a repertory company but at the same time extend it," is Sarah's answer to the problem. "On the other hand," he adds, "we must avoid a choreographic gloss over everything so that at the end of an evening, or at the end of a season, such a wide range of work has been presented that you just don't know what the company stands for."

seen — Graham, Limon, Tharp, Taylor — that is there available to be seen. I think the danger is that we simply can't afford to be seen as an interesting museum company presenting proven repertoire."

Listening to the customer is also a new priority, with the knowledge that the Eighties vogue for "the

internalising of dance, the rather cool, abstract, minimalist approach has not in fact found a wider audience either regionally or in London."

Sarah believes that "too often contemporary dance turns its back on its audience and doesn't really

that are just about steps."

LCDT's two-week season at Sadler's Wells, which opens tomorrow, reflects some of the company's new priorities. There is a revival of Paul Taylor's *Cloven Kingdom*, one of those proven hits from the "contemporary classics"

'Let us find choreographers who offer us red-blooded choreography that is about emotions and life and relationships'

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Academy of Ancient Music, St John's, Smith Square	January 1	12.00 noon	£10 & £5
The Messiah: The London Philharmonic, Royal Albert Hall	December 27	7.30pm	£12.50

THE SUNDAY TIMES



Returning to Sadler's Wells: Tracey Fitzgerald as Euridice in *Orfeo*, an Olivier award-winning work by Kim Brandstrup for LCDT

BRIEFING

At long last love

THE trek may be coming to an end for the veteran crew members of the *Starship Enterprise*. Paramount Pictures has decided that the next *Star Trek*, due to move into production next year, will be the last big-screen spin-off from the cult television series. The intention, says Leonard Nimoy, portrayer of Mr Spock, is to do a "grand-cut movie" to mark the 25th anniversary in 1991 of the programme's birth.

The celebrations will, though, be held without Harve Bennett, producer of the earlier films, who left the company after creative differences. Bennett wanted the grand-cut movie to be a "prequel", showing how the *Enterprise* crew came together. Paramount preferred to show Mr Spock doing the unthinkable: falling in love.

Table talk

POLITICS can have unexpected theatrical resonances, as audiences noticed on Thursday night at the National Theatre production of David Edgar's *The Skin of the Table*. Although the play concerns party politics in Eastern Europe, obvious parallels between were not lost on those watching.

There were chuckles early in Act I when the one-time Stalinist, Lutz, asserts that "I'll be demoted, but I won't be dumped. I want another job." Later, commenting on a political Judas in their midst, another character remarks: "Shall we just say that if one's being preyed upon, it's nice to know about it?"

Backlit Barry

DAME Edna Everage moves a step closer to beatification. She, or perhaps he, is the subject of two stained-glass windows by Patrick Reyntiens which go on show at the Fine Arts Society in New Bond Street today. Reyntiens, who made the baptistery windows in Coventry Cathedral, calls his new piece "Studies for the Apotheosis of Dame Edna". At £20,000, it is the most expensive piece in the exhibition, which also has two windows of Kenneth Branagh as Quince and seven roguish of circus acrobats. The exhibition runs until December 21.

Last chance

NAPLES has fluctuated artists since the Middle Ages, and Vesuvius has been a pet subject ever since the 18th century began to care for the Sublime as well as the Beautiful. A large show in Naples earlier this year covered the whole story. The slumped-down version at the Accademia Italiana (071-225 3474) confines itself largely to the responses of Italian and British artists, and includes works by Wright of Derby, whose own retrospective had pre-empted Naples. A show full of elegance and drama, it closes tomorrow.

OPERA

Musical feast without the dressing

WHAT is the use of an opera, Alice in Wonderland may have asked, without pictures or confrontations? A great deal, as it turns out, for that most irrational of entertainments has of late found new *raison d'être* in a form without sets, costumes or any physical action save that of the baton and the exchanged glance.

The flood tide of opera audiences has spilled over into the concert hall, and the public, it seems, is as hungry for concert performances of opera as it is for pursuing the seat of

madness in London last April. Festival-goers will have come across him in venues as far apart as Montepulciano (four years on the committee), in Denmark, Sweden, the Florence Maggio Musicale, and at an extraordinary lake-side production of *The Turn of the Screw* in Tore del Lago in 1986. This cosmopolitan apprenticeship is beginning to find its own focus. After seeing his *Manon* in Macerata in 1987, the Vienna State Opera invited him to make his debut with the company a year later in *Madeleine*. Now, he has been chosen as one of the company's five guest conductors to

work on productions such as *Samson*, *Ballo*, *Traviata* and *Nabucco* up until 1993.

Latham-Koenig, whose exacting work in core classical repertoire with his hand-picked Orquestra do Porto has fired him to complement his operatic work with more intensive symphonic training, looks forward to renewing his contacts with British orchestras.

In January, a programme of Wagner, Brahms and Mozart with the Hallé just happens to coincide with the start of a year in which that orchestra's search for a new principal conductor will be gathering momentum.

Opera in Concert presents the *Rossini Stabat Mater* at the Festival Hall (071-228 8200) tonight at 7.30pm.

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LET IT THROUGH
THE TIMES

NOVEMBER 26, 1990

CINEMA: LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Newcomers, pygmies and giants

A qualified positive reaction, sorting the best from the rest of the 200 films in the crowded fortnight of the 1990 London Film Festival, from the understandably jaded Geoff Brown

Can it be only two weeks since a 'Comedy' and Western group called the Tex Pistols launched the London Film Festival by assaulting our ears during the screening of *Tex Willer*? It seems like another age. Since then, some 200 movies have coursed through the projectors at 15 different venues. The trees are bare, the nights shorter; a prime minister has even resigned.

But has the cinematic firmament altered? Are new lights blazing alongside the fixed stars of the past? The festival revealed the odd twinkle of new talent and dug up a forgotten one: E.A. Dupont. His silent classic *Moulin Rouge* provided rich enjoyment, matched to Mike Westbrook's new score.

Another veteran showed his hand in the festival's last days. The initial moments of Satyajit Ray's *Branches of the Tree* — a festival world premiere — were most discouraging: static interior shots, choked with indigestible talk between a proud Bengali patrifamilies and his mentally unstable son. Yet, once other family members arrived for the

Gorbachev's Soviet Union has never seemed so chaotic: a whirlpool of eccentrics, dreamers and strong-arm survivors from the authoritarian past.'

man's seventieth birthday, and were forced to stay put after he suffered a heart attack, the film gained enormously in fluidity.

Ray wrote the original script 25 years ago. He claims the heart attack element is in no way autobiographical — Ray himself was laid up through much of the Eighties with cardiac trouble — though his personal experiences clearly helped him give the film such a strong emotional force.

Ray's theme is the nobility and sadness of life: the poison of corruption, and the consolation of art (particularly classical music: the inevitable son's one pleasure). A few harmonies apart, the acting flows with grace and fine shading.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Will a 'diminished' LSO be left out in the cold?

Richard Morrison on an apparent funding crisis at one of London's major orchestras

The Arts Council meets on Wednesday for a crucial discussion of its future role, and it will also have to weigh a dramatic appeal from a major arts organisation desperate to avoid "delegation" of its public funding to a regional arts board.

Following the letter to *The Times* on Saturday from the heads of four English regional orchestras, stating their argument for continuing as Arts Council clients, the London Symphony Orchestra has painted a gloomy picture of what it considers would be its "diminished international status" if its funding is devolved

to a newly constituted London Arts Board.

"Two opera houses and two theatre companies have been chosen as national flagships, but no symphony orchestra," says Clive Gillinson, the LSO's managing director. "That effectively demotes the status of symphonic music in this country, and has very destructive implications for its future."

Gillinson has written a letter of protest to the Arts Council's music director. The LSO's concerns are

focused on four areas. First, it fears that its international status (recently boosted when it was chosen to replace the Berlin Philharmonic at the Salzburg Festival) will be jeopardised if top soloists and conductors become aware that the LSO is being delegated. "It is vital that top artists perceive the LSO as an international ensemble," Gillinson says, "because in Britain we are already asking them to accept fees far lower than elsewhere."

Second, the LSO maintains that

if it is delegated its Barbican concerts will not be able to compete on a fair footing with the South Bank, which has been deemed a "flagship" and will remain centrally funded.

Third, the LSO's funding comprises a complex mixture of Arts Council and Corporation of London money, which took several years to negotiate. The orchestra believes that delegation would mean that all these negotiations would have to begin again.

Finally, there are worries over

unique security among the London orchestras: good funding by the City of London, matched pound for pound by the Arts Council. With this basis it could operate a risky but spectacular policy of booking top-rank soloists (Rostropovich and Anne-Sophie Mutter have both had major LSO festivals) and winning lucrative sponsorship to pay for them. This glamorous strategy is what the LSO considers to be under threat.

The Arts Council, however, must decide whether the LSO, for all its long history and international standing, is really a special case.

CABARET

Quick-fire with a smoke screen

Denis Leary, the stand-up comedian who makes light of smoking and is short-listed for a controversial prize, talks to Stephanie Billen

What do you get when you cross an American cigarette company with a comedian whose show is called *No Cure for Cancer*? The American stand-up comic Denis Leary is still trying to work it out.

As audiences at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London, will discover, Leary is obsessed with the wood. On BBC's *Paranormal City* earlier this year he was known as "The Smoking Man". But Leary is also obsessed with the gory after-effects. He advocates people contracting cancer through their own actions, as opposed to falling victim to a pollution-induced disease.

All of which would seem strange material for a cigarette company to endorse. Yet Leary is on a shortlist of two for top prize in the Merit competition for the best up-and-coming comic in America.

He sees his nomination as a cute idea, which is now regretted, and says: "We did this show in Los Angeles for the finalists, and this guy from Merit actually asked me beforehand if I'd mind not smoking in the show."

"Then he started saying, 'We had a meeting and we thought it might be better for the image... I mean, you're a funny guy, you've got other material.' Then another guy comes up and says, 'It's all right, I was at that meeting and we thought we'd just suggest it to you, and you could make up your own mind.' I said I could never pass this up, it was the perfect opportunity to do my cancer and smoking stuff — sponsored by a cigarette

company with a huge cigarette pack behind me on the stage."

"When I came off, the guy says: 'Just want you to understand that it will be very difficult for us, if you are just going to do cancer stuff, to make you the Merit comic.'

Leary tells the tale with relish, chewing savagely on a piece of green bubble gum introduced to his mouth after the obligatory couple of fags. He believes our universal fear of cancer justifies his deranged monologue, the jokes about the disease and even about those celebrities who have suffered from it.

He claims to suffer few ill-effects. "I have the occasional numbness in the left arm, a little bit of chest pain, heart spasms, but no coughing, no. Nothing serious," he says.

On stage he waxes lyrical about the fetishistic pleasure of the nicotine drug, which he likens to breast-feeding. Other drugs have never had the same appeal for him. Nevertheless, he believes all drugs should be legalised: "Then everyone would be uninterested."

Leary delights in being controversial. In America, where he is part of the Big Apple's new wave of comics (once nicknamed The Dirty Dozen), he usually has a good few Kennedy jokes. He was banned from performing in Boston, where he comes from, after a show in which a demonstration of Kennedy supporters had to be broken up by police. A member of the family was said to be there.

In London, Leary and a band called The Few will make sure they perform a song about the clan as well as ditties about cancer ("The Downtrodden Song"), and about "hazing" — as in saving the whale, ozone layer and rainforest. He offends many people but

finds little distasteful himself, except perhaps blandness: "There are so many people doing comedy in America now because they learnt a formula. They are not funny people and they have nothing funny to say. They just wear a thin little tie and roll up the sleeves of their jackets and come out and talk about how women go shopping and men are sloppy. I find that kind of comedy really offensive."

• *No Cure for Cancer* is at the Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (071-387 9629) from tonight to Saturday, December 7



Smoking joker: Denis Leary

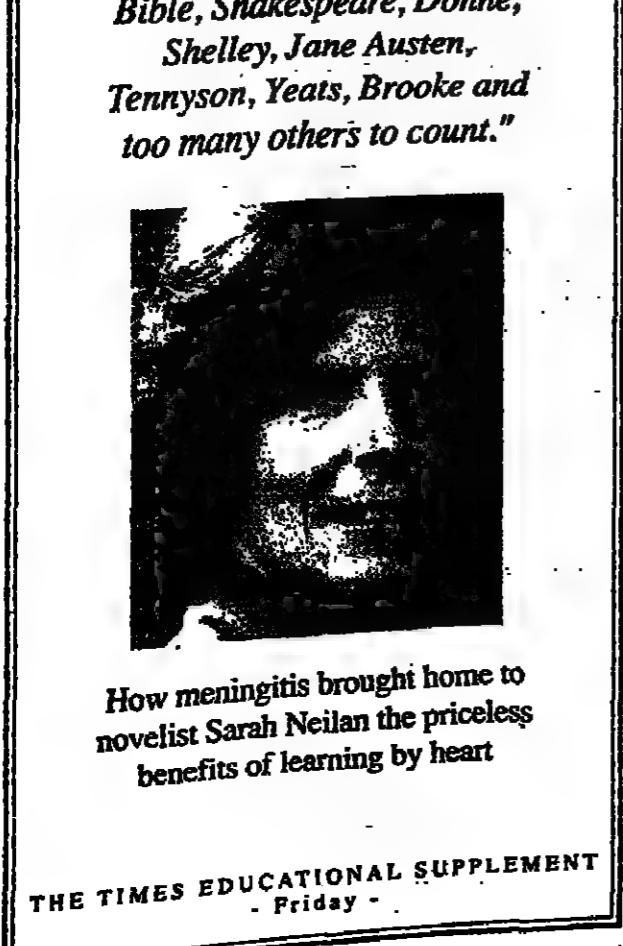
Pick of the Week

CHRISTIE'S

THIS powerful picture is a masterpiece by the Finnish painter Helene Schjerbeck (1862-1946). Painted circa 1935-36, it captures a moment when the artist spotted two neighbours alarmed by a fire in her home village Ekenäs. The bold lines and composition are typical of the artist's individual style, but the use of more than one figure is rare in her work. Owned by the film star Ingrid Bergman, the picture is included in the sale of Important Scandinavian Pictures, Watercolours and Sculpture at Christie's, King Street on Thursday, 29 November at 7.00 p.m.

For further information on this and other sales in the next week, please telephone Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (071) 839 9060.

8 King Street, London SW1
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7
164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow



How meningitis brought home to novelist Sarah Neill the priceless benefits of learning by heart

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

TELEVISION

Jingo's jingle judged

IN TIMES of political upheaval or national crisis, it is always best to retreat to the Albert Hall: there, as the returning Everyman discovered last night for BBC 1, is a resident ex-army usher in no doubt as to his patriotic priorities.

Come Christmas, he said, every year the Duchess of Kent sits on the stage surrounded by hundreds of very small children. If that is not "Land of Hope and Glory", he further averred, then he did not know what was. Certainly it separates the British from other nations: without songs like that, reckons the usher, we would end up like foreigners, all starving.

Quite who the starving foreigners were, or why their hunger derived from an inability to sing "Land of Hope and Glory", was never explained by a programme which did, however, manage to raise some intriguing issues of musical jingoism. Clearly inspired by this year's Proms rumpus when Mark Elder was summarily removed from the rostrum for deciding that the singing of "Land of Hope and Glory" would be unsuitable in a Gulf crisis, Everyman found a vicar who worried about whether, in the wake of the Spycatcher affair, we were still the "mother of the free", but the conclusion was that, on balance, the songwriting team of Edward Elgar and A.C. Benson had come up with a permanent top of the pops. "It will knock 'em flat", said Elgar at the time of its writing, thereby establishing a claim to be an early master of tabloid musical journalism.

While BBC 1, earlier in the evening, continues to establish *House of Cards* as the most fortuitously topical political thriller in recent memory, ITV has gone back 60 years to R.F. Delderfield's *Come Home Charlie and Face Them*, a three-part drama of the Depression in a Welsh town.

A decade or two after his death, and 40 years after his novels were all the rage at Boots Lending Libraries, Delderfield continues to prove an ideal television playwright. He wrote long books in which not a lot happens slowly, allowing the viewer not just to make an occasional phone call but read all the Sunday papers while keeping an eye on proceedings.

Period detail is often all that matters: London Weekend has been at the *Upstairs, Downstairs* game for too many years now to have all the right antimacassars in place. Never mind the ritual plot about the upwardly mobile bank clerk and the exotic older woman, just look at the way the wallpaper has been hung with all its patterns authentically clashing. Tom Radcliffe is here giving what would once have been the Albert Finney or Terence Stamp performance of angry deprivation, and the ghosts of Rachel Roberts and Simone Signoret are all over town.

LATER on ITV, the *South Bank Show* about Alan Parker neatly illustrated the strengths and weaknesses of the director profile. If one is going to spend several months following a film-maker around his own childhood and professional locations, then one is clearly not going to choose a rubbushy one, and there is no doubt that Parker deserves *SBS* attention. A flamboyant and fluent self-expressionalist, he took a brisk look back at his childhood roots in Islington and decided there was no call there for nostalgia. A brisk chronology established that all Parker's films since his early and superb television commercial parodies of *Brief Encounter* and *A Night to Remember* have to do with personal perceptions, usually of a world which he has been viewing from an Odeon.

If it was to avoid being no more than an extended trailer for Parker's new and superlative *Come See the Paradise*, about the United States' treatment of their Japanese population in the wake of Pearl Harbor, then the *South Bank Show* needed to find a Parker critic, and Geoff Andrew was allowed too little time to develop the case for the opposition, based as this is on charges of distortion and trivialisation.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Politics of sheep and tear gas

THEATRE

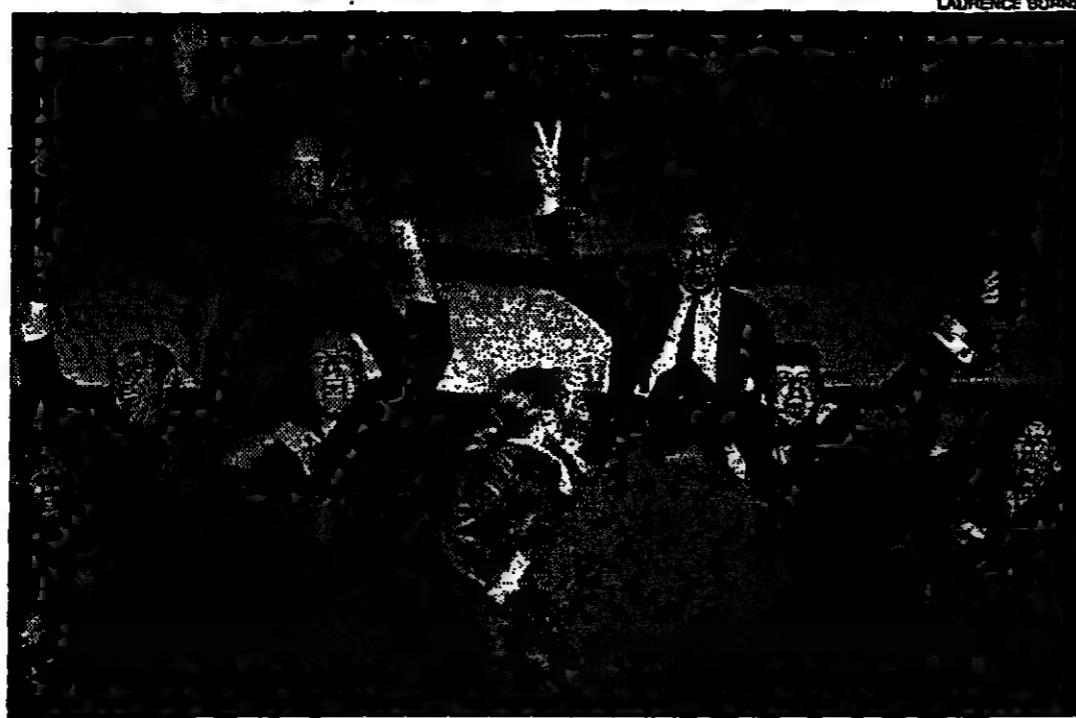
**The Winter's Tale/
Coriolanus**
Royal, Plymouth

NEITHER Michael Bogdanov's rough, obstreperous style nor his relentless search for contemporary relevance at the occasional expense of artistic coherence seem obviously suited to a text such as *The Winter's Tale*. Even for him, it is quite an achievement to have located the politics of sheep-shearing as one of this play's major themes.

As it turns out, the pastoral business of the fourth act works notably better than the courtly goings-on. There is an audible sigh of relief when Bernard Lloyd's Shepherd and Charles Dale's Clown come on as a pair of mid-Welsh hill farmers. At least we know who they are, unlike the Sicilian courtiers, who, changing restlessly and without motivation from different kinds of formal gear, appear variously as mafiosi and the men in grey suits allegedly responsible for Mrs Thatcher's downfall.

It is the men in white coats who seem called for in the case of Michael Pennington's deeply paranoid Leontes. Pennington solves the notorious problem of the suddenness of the onset of jealousy by looking ripe for a breakdown from the start. There are mesmerising touches — the slow inclination of his head towards Hermione and Polixenes, the strangled delivery of "not for joy, not joy" — but in the end the performance seems too introverted, the character too detached from his context. The fact that we have never seen a sane Leontes makes his eventual recovery hard to credit.

Lynn Farleigh's Hermione casts



Caricature in Eastern Europe: citizens protest before riot police move in with truncheons and shields

a glow of warm allure, not just injured dignity, into the draughty spaces of Chris Dyer's cold, bare set. But this is a production in which too many of the players behave like statues throughout. James Hayes's witty Irish Auto-lycus (or O'R'Lukus), particularly funny as a pseudo-courtier, stands amid much drabness.

From one of Shakespeare's least political plays to his greatest essay on politics, both performed here by the English Shakespeare Company. This *Coriolanus* begins in Eastern Europe: bubble-battled, anorak-clad protesters (including one resembling the young Lech Wałęsa) gather beneath a banner saying "democratic" in Solidarnosc lettering. There are police announcements and tear gas, and the riot squad move in with shields and truncheons.

Not only is the shock effect nil; this seems like last year's, or the last decade's, news. Worse still, the play has to start all over again, because the Rome of *Coriolanus* is not Poland or anywhere else. It is not a democracy, to be sure, but neither is it a totalitarian tyranny. Shakespeare chose a specific, sophisticated model in order to demonstrate his bleak vision of the self-destructiveness of the martial hero, the infirmity of rabble-rousing populism and the ultimate meanness of Machiavellian *realpolitik*.

None of these comes through half as clearly in this confused production as they did in Terry Hand's lucid, gripping version for the RSC last year. Michael Pennington makes a rebarbative protagonist complete with Oswald Mosley moustache; a character

whose distaste for the mob stems from prejudice, not first-hand experience. He and the production are not helped by having the stage of Coriolanus — a key incident, however hard to stage — reduced (in a bored monotone) by Andrew Jarvis's (Audifidus) rather than acted out. This signals a pervasive lack of action and excitement.

The big set pieces such as Coriolanus's election and the tribune's rousing of the people are played as public meetings with microphones and actors in the audience — and generate all the voltage of a dull day at the Liberal Democrats' conference. At least with Volumnia's intercession Jule Watson finds the fire she lacked early on as a Tunbridge Wells Tory matron.

HARRY EYRES

CONCERT

LCP/Norrrington
Queen Elizabeth Hall

DEVOTEES of the London Classical Players by now have a good idea what to expect, especially in a programme of Mozart and Beethoven. Yet the wonder is that an LCP performance is never predictable: indeed, a familiar repertoire piece such as Beethoven's Second Symphony in D major is likely to emerge with all the freshness and spontaneity of a work being performed for the first time.



Scowling: Andrew Eldritch

Under Roger Norrrington the Players breathe the vital spark into every breath. The experience is almost sensuous, certainly it provokes a physical response in many members of the audience, to judge by the head-jigging and foot-tapping.

Few ensembles derive such visible delight from each other's music-making, and that responsiveness is enhanced by the spatial disposition of the orchestra, with not only violins but also basses and brass divided across the stage.

The arrangement for a Mozart concerto (K.503 in C major) was different again. For this, Norrrington abandoned the prayer-mat he used for the other items, and

secreted himself in the body of the orchestra, conducting from his now-famous swivel chair, presenting his back or side to a substantial number of the string players. The spotlight was thus thrown on the solos. Melvyn Tan, centrally placed. But given Norrrington's characteristically extravagant gestures and high interpretative profile, his presence could not be disguised for long.

With Norrrington in partnership with Tan — another highly visual performer — there is little risk of the cult of personality being subsumed in the name of "authenticity". But who could complain when the result is so electrifying? Tan penetrates the

inner life of every melodic line, and the intensity of his experience sweeps the listener — or rather observer — away with him. He, too, engages with the other members of the ensemble to a high degree. The interaction is less rhetorical than to the Beethoven symphony, more in the way of dialogue, and it positively enhances one's appreciation of the music to see him responding first to an oboe and then to a flute.

What makes a Norrrington/Tan LCP concert so exhilarating is the sheer physicality of their music-making. If a head nodding is seen, it will be in time with the music.

BARRY MILLINGTON

LIVE performance is not Andrew Eldritch's forte, which is one reason why he has held himself aloof from the touring circus for more than five years. Yet his potency as a godhead of the goth-movement has, if anything, been enhanced by his absence, and a vast throng of pale creatures, their fashion sense located at the point where punk meets vamp, slouched towards Wembley, their hour come round at last.

These uniformly black-clad worshippers were greeted by a gloomy stage festooned with battle-axe chains and already filling up with gusting clouds of dry ice. As darkness fell, a deep rumbling sound and an angry throbbing redness signalled the arrival of five shadowy figures who quickly locked into the mordant chug of "First and Last and Always".

There seemed to be a pre-

ference of very old material, although most of the excellent new album, *Vision Thing*, had been dispensed in bits and bobs by the end. There was also a marked lack of sensitivity both to the booming sound and to the glowering intensity of the group's performance, such that all the songs, from the galloping hauteur of "Dominion" to the wracked despair of "Ribbons", were stripped of nuance and subjected to a virtually identical monotone delivery.

Only the acoustic guitar-dominated "Something Fast" escaped this fate, while a cover of the Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter" and a preposterous rendering of Dolly Parton's "Jolene" simply sank into the sural mire.

Eldritch had clearly planned his campaign with care, but five years is a long time to be cocooned in the controlled environments of the recording studio and the video shoot. In seeking to cope with the cavernous reality of Wembley, the band failed to bring its haunting music fully to life or to sustain its unique aura of mystery.

DAVID SINCLAIR

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 24

FINNESCO
(b) A variety of inner boot made out of reindeer skin, taken from the animal's hock (which is ideal because it requires no heel seam). It is often used with horse hair grass for insulation. From the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. (See Scott Peck, Cambridge, Not in the reference books.)

SASUS
(a) The Indian crane, *Grus antigone*, from the Hindi name: "The gaunt Indian or Sarus Crane, Grus antigone of Linnæus."

GREGO
(a) A coarse jacket with a hood, worn in the Levant, also, slang, a rough greatcoat, from the Latin *grossus* (gross). The word has had down in their pockets and pilot-jackets."

GRECOV
(a) Recent rhyming slang for a cheque, from the smoothish film star, Gregory Peck. It has also been recorded as slang for "cheek", but the financial sense seems more usual, since the occasions when one wants to refer to such are infrequent: "I'm just popping over to arrange [and mesh = cash] a Gregory."

ENTERTAINMENTS

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THEATRES

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ENGLISH NATIONAL THEATRE

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GENERAL TICKETS

2nd Sat 7.30pm

THE MYSTERY OF RMA VEP

071-580 0001

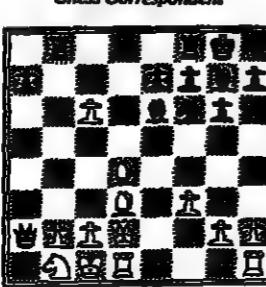
2nd Sat 7.30pm

COLONNA THEATRE

2nd Sat 7.30pm

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene,
Chess Correspondent



Morin (White) — Alain Black (Black). — Montreal 1993

Such tremendous pressure against the White king position. Can you see the winning move?

ANSWER: 1. e5! 2. f6! 3. g5! 4. h6! 5. g4! 6. f5! 7. g3! 8. h4! 9. f4! 10. g2! 11. h5! 12. g1! 13. h6! 14. f3! 15. g2! 16. h4! 17. g1! 18. h5! 19. f2! 20. g1! 21. h4! 22. g2! 23. h5! 24. f1! 25. g1! 26. h4! 27. g2! 28. h5! 29. f1! 30. g1! 31. h4! 32. g2! 33. h5! 34. f1! 35. g1! 36. h4! 37. g2! 38. h5! 39. f1! 40. g1! 41. h4! 42. g2! 43. h5! 44. f1! 45. g1! 46. h4! 47. g2! 48. h5! 49. f1! 50. g1! 51. h4! 52. g2! 53. h5! 54. f1! 55. g1! 56. h4! 57. g2! 58. h5! 59. f1! 60. g1! 61. h4! 62. g2! 63. h5! 64. f1! 65. g1! 66. h4! 67. g2! 68. h5! 69. f1! 70. g1! 71. h4! 72. g2! 73. h5! 74. f1! 75. g1! 76. h4! 77. g2! 78. h5! 79. f1! 80. g1! 81. h4! 82. g2! 83. h5! 84. f1! 85. g1! 86. h4! 87. g2! 88. h5! 89. f1! 90. g1! 91. h4! 92. g2! 93. h5! 94. f1! 95. g1! 96. h4! 97. g2! 98. h5! 99. f1! 100. g1! 101. h4! 102. g2! 103. h5! 104. f1! 105. g1! 106. h4! 107. g2! 108. h5! 109. f1! 110. g1! 111. h4! 112. g2! 113. h5! 114. f1! 115. g1! 116. h4! 117. g2! 118. h5! 119. f1! 120. g1! 121. h4! 122. g2! 123. h5! 124. f1! 125. g1! 126. h4! 127. g2! 128. h5! 129. f1! 130. g1! 131. h4! 132. g2! 133. h5! 134. f1! 135. g1! 136. h4! 137. g2! 138. h5! 139. f1! 140. g1! 141. h4! 142. g2! 143. h5! 144. f1! 145. g1! 146. h4! 147. g2! 148. h5! 149. f1! 150. g1! 151. h4! 152. g2! 153. h5! 154. f1! 155. g1! 156. h4! 157. g2! 158. h5! 159. f1! 160. g1! 161. h4! 162. g2! 163. h5! 164. f1! 165. g1! 166. h4! 167. g2! 168. h5! 169. f1! 170. g1! 171. h4! 172. g2! 173. h5! 174. f1! 175. g1! 176. h4! 177. g2! 178. h5! 179. f1! 180. g1! 181. h4! 182. g2! 183. h5! 184. f1! 185. g1! 186. h4! 187. g2! 188. h5! 189. f1! 190. g1! 191. h4! 192. g2! 193. h5! 194. f1! 195. g1! 196. h4! 197. g2! 198. h5! 199. f1! 200. g1! 201. h4! 202. g2! 203. h5! 204. f1! 205. g1! 206. h4! 207. g2! 208. h5! 209. f1! 210. g1! 211. h4! 212. g2! 213. h5! 214. f1! 215. g1! 216. h4! 217. g2! 218. h5! 219. f1! 220. g1! 221. h4! 222. g2! 223. h5! 224. f1! 225. g1! 226. h4! 227. g2! 228. h5! 229. f1! 230. g1! 231. h4! 232. g2! 233. h5! 234. f1! 235. g1! 236. h4! 237. g2! 238. h5! 239. f1! 240. g1! 241. h4! 242. g2! 243. h5! 244. f1! 245. g1! 246. h4! 247. g2! 248. h5! 249. f1! 250. g1! 251. h4! 252. g2! 253. h5! 254. f1! 255. g1! 256. h4! 257. g2! 258. h5! 259. f1! 260. g1! 261. h4! 262. g2! 263. h5! 264. f1! 265. g1! 266. h4! 267. g2! 268. h5! 269. f1! 270. g1! 271. h4! 272. g2! 273. h5! 274. f1! 275. g1! 276. h4! 277. g2! 278. h5! 279. f1! 280. g1! 281. h4! 282. g2! 283. h5! 284. f1! 285. g1! 286. h4! 287. g2! 288. h5! 289. f1! 290. g1! 291. h4! 292. g2! 293. h5! 294. f1! 295. g1! 296. h4! 297. g2! 298. h5! 299. f1! 300. g1! 301. h4! 302. g2! 303. h5! 304. f1! 305. g1! 306. h4! 307. g2! 308. h5! 309. f1! 310. g1! 311. h4! 312. g2! 313. h5! 314. f1! 315. g1! 316. h4! 317. g2! 318. h5! 319. f1! 320. g1! 321. h4! 322. g2! 323. h5! 324. f1! 325. g1! 326. h4! 327. g2! 328. h5! 329. f1! 330. g1! 331. h4! 332. g2! 333. h5! 334. f1! 335. g1! 336. h4! 337. g2! 338. h5! 339. f1! 340. g1! 341. h4! 342. g2! 343. h5! 344. f1! 345. g1! 346. h4! 347. g2! 348. h5! 349. f1! 350. g1! 351. h4! 352. g2! 353. h5! 354. f1! 355. g1! 356. h4

Soviet budget to fuel gloom of economic forecasters

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

NIKOLAI Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister, will confirm many of the worst forecasts about the Soviet economy when he presents his economic plan and budget projections for next year to the Supreme Soviet today.

The 1991 budget, which calls for extensive cuts in investment, higher prices and a new sales tax, will be considered by parliamentary deputies who are already critical of the new Union Treaty to decide relations between the central Soviet government and the 15 republics, the draft of which was published on Saturday.

"Negative tendencies" which have reduced this year's national income by 3 per cent, industrial production by almost 1 per cent and productivity by 2 per cent, will continue, says the budget forecast. Repeated warnings of uncontrollable inflation and economic collapse are interspersed with figures showing that Moscow will be hard pressed to keep its internal deficit down to this year's level of 60 billion roubles. Unless drastic measures are taken, the deficit could be four times higher.

In his budget, Mr Ryzhkov stands by the freezing of prices for so-called "luxury goods", a measure already rejected by several republics, including the Russian Federation. He calls for the introduction of a new 3 per cent sales tax in addition to the existing "turnover tax", levies on newly started and uncompleted construction projects and a 25 per cent cut in administrative staff in industrial enterprises. There is nothing about cutting the government apparatus.

Despite promises of reduced military spending, allocations to the military sector remain the biggest single item in next year's state budget, at more than 98 billion roubles (or 38 per cent of central, as opposed to republic spending). This is more than double the sum set aside for subsidies to the economy generally.

In foreign trade, the Soviet Union will be handicapped not only by a projected halving of oil

exports and large debt servicing payments, but by the switch to convertible currency for trade within the East European trading organisation, Comecon. This, Mr Ryzhkov says, will greatly reduce the demand for Soviet machinery and manufactured goods. He proposes that imports should be slashed from 38 billion roubles this year to 20 billion roubles.

The budget is couched in more cautious and provisional language than in previous years, with "recommendations" rather than instructions. Despite this change, it remains highly centralised in spirit, and central control touches almost every area of economic activity. In the unlikely event that all the recommendations are followed, the republics would be left with few resources to call their own.

The same objection, that an essentially centralising document is being presented as a liberalising measure, has been levelled against the new Union Treaty. While the centre reserves the right to determine defence, foreign and overall economic policy for the union, in almost every other area, including foreign trade, natural resources and crime, it also retains a "co-ordinating" or "regulating" role. Republics are given the right to decide what forms of property ownership and social structure they have, but they must also adhere to agreed basic norms in social policy and working conditions.

Republics will own the land and its resources "with the exception of what is essential to realising the authority of the USSR". Republics can pass their own legislation, but "should not obstruct the union in realising its authority". Republics are empowered to levy their own taxes, but there will also be union taxes and deductions for all union programmes.

The three Baltic republics and Georgia have already made it clear that they will not sign the Union Treaty, regardless of what it contains, because they want full independence from the Soviet Union. The Lithuanian prime minister, Kazimira Pruskaite, has said that the draft treaty is of interest to her government only in so far as it shows what sort of a Soviet Union Lithuania will be dealing with in future.

Islam Karimov, president of the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, said that the treaty would need substantial amendment before his republic would sign, and the Russian Federation starts its twice-yearly congress of people's deputies tomorrow. It is expected to adopt a constitution that will in many respects conflict with the treaty.

Soviet famine, page 9

Ryzhkov: calling for higher prices and new taxes



Facing the future: Mr. Waleska addressing the Catholic University in Lublin in the run-up to Poland's presidential elections. Polls give him a lead in the first round.

Campaign stirs bitter emotions

Continued from page 1

police soon separated the brawlers and election day passed relatively calmly. None the less the campaign has stirred some bitter emotions and Mr Waleska admitted in Gdansk yesterday that the future president would have a difficult job mending the political fractures. "Even if I win the presidency," he said, "the real victory is still ahead."

Mr Waleska has threatened to step down rather than go through with a second round contest on December 9. The Mazowiecki campaign team says that this is merely a ploy to mobilise wavering voters. If the election does enter a second round there will be an intensive round of bargaining as the two chief candidates woo the Peasant's party - which wants subsidies and help in penetrating European Community markets - and even from the former communist candidate, Wladzimir Cimoszewicz, who according to the weekend poll can command a 10 per cent of the vote.

Roman Catholic priests who used to urge their flock to vote against communists or boycott communist-run elections were yesterday remarkably discreet. Cardinals and bishops came out to vote, but the only advice from the pulpit was "make a choice for Christian values". Mr Waleska and Mr Mazowiecki are both devout Catholics and have argued against the liberal abortion bill passed in the communist era.

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Saddam hostage campaign continues

Continued from page 1

against the advice of the British government, which fears that it could increase Baghdad's self-confidence. Mr Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, said however that the fact that the Iraqi government was ready to see him and others showed that the situation was moving.

"Nobody, even Saddam Hussein, is exempt from the expression of world opinion, and that expression is increasingly in favour of a progressive release of residents and a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi question," he said. He wanted to explore the possibilities of a peaceful settlement. "Any leader will want to

avoid bloodshed", he said. "The Iraqis know my position on the Gulf and that I am opposed to the invasion of Kuwait and support sanctions."

The Foreign Office has refused Mr Benn's request for secretarial assistance in Baghdad, but he said the Iraqi government would be hoped to secure the release of some Americans.

A plane carrying 104 Germans and one Briton arrived in Frankfurt, Germany, from Baghdad yesterday. Most other German hostages were previously freed after a visit by Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor.

About 70 of the 315 Italians were also freed, and Athens welcomed a decision to release ten Greeks. A Finnish delegation which is visiting Baghdad is

expected to seek the release of nine Finnish nationals.

The Iraqi authorities are planning a big Christmas reunion between hostages and visiting wives and have said that the remaining hostages will be released in batches over the ensuing three months.

London and Washington have both dismissed the offer of visits as "cynical manipulation" and have urged relatives not to go to Baghdad, emphasising that their safety cannot be guaranteed during their stay in the city.

"The British release may well provoke more spouses to come, just as the visit by politicians has inspired others to follow," said one Western diplomat yesterday. "In a civilised world you normally punish kidnappers, you do not pander to them. The presence of these women only adds to the Iraqi inventory of human shields."

One American trapped in Baghdad echoed the views of many hostages when he said: "A good many of us are unhappy at the prospect of future visits. They recall the difficulty in getting the women and children out in the first place."

Yesterday the wives of Britons freed recently warned relatives of other captives in Iraq not to expect the same treatment. "We feel that this release is a one-off," Dorothy Goodwin, who led the group of wives on their two-week mission to Baghdad, said.

"If they succeed we will be the first to congratulate them, but they should not expect the same treatment."

MPs urge stricter curbs on court powers

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS will be strongly pressed this week to harden up what Labour MPs, probation officers and penal reformers believe is the government's half-hearted attempt to restrict the courts' power to jail non-violent offenders.

Opposition MPs support the broad thrust of the Criminal Justice Bill, but believe its proposals are too timid and will have only a marginal effect on the jail population. They have a tabled a flurry of amendments, the first of which will be discussed on Thursday when the bill goes into committee.

The key amendment seeks to remove the caveat the bill proposes to the role that courts should generally disregard previous convictions. Ministers, facing pro-

tests from judges and magistrates, now say the circumstances of past offences should be considered, such as the professionalism with which they were committed.

Labour, together with bodies such as the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro), says that the qualification should be excised because it will confuse sentencing.

The party also says that petty, persistent thieves and burglars will remain at risk of being jailed.

Nacro said yesterday that the government had undermined one of the bill's central principles: that punishments should closely match the seriousness of the crime. Home Office research had shown that nearly 40 per cent of thieves convicted for stealing goods worth

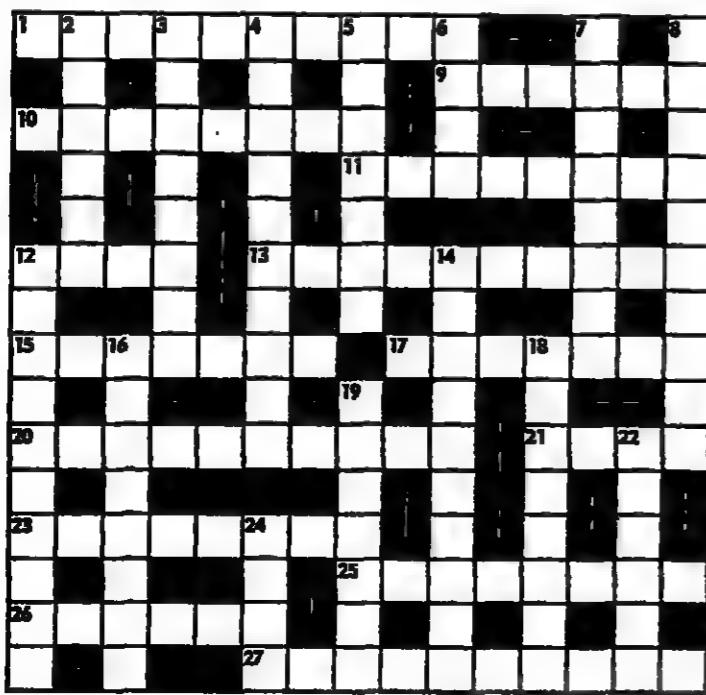
less than £200 were sent to jail. A spokesman said: "In such cases, imprisonment is often a response to persistent petty offending in the past and cannot be justified by the gravity of the offence for which the judge is supposedly sentencing."

The association said the covenants were unnecessary as courts could legitimately consider a criminal's style of offending when assessing the seriousness of his offence.

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,461



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

FINNESCO

a. a sleek dog
b. A sleek neck
c. A Nob Play singer

SARUS

a. The Indian crane
b. A historical question
c. A fare sport-producer

GRECO

a. A jacket with hood
b. A Greek goddess
c. A Lorraine cross

GREGORY

a. A cheque
b. A service's cap
c. A net

Answers on page 22, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

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London & SE traffic, roadworks

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M25 London Orbital only 0171 730

National traffic and roadworks

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West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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WEATHER

by very strong winds. England and Wales will be cloudy with some rain at first, perhaps with sleet or snow on hills in Wales and northern England. Western Wales and northwest England will turn drier and brighter. Much of Scotland will have showers but southwest Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with some sun. Outlook: Staying cold.

ABROAD

Algeria 15 57 15 58 15 59 15 60 15 61 15 62 15 63 15 64 15 65 15 66 15 67 15 68 15 69 15 70 15 71 15 72 15 73 15 74 15 75 15 76 15 77 15 78 15 79 15 80 15 81 15 82 15 83 15 84 15 85 15 86 15 87 15 88 15 89 15 90 15 91 15 92 15 93 15 94 15 95 15 96 15 97 15 98 15 99 15 100 15 101 15 102 15 103 15 104 15 105 15 106 15 107 15 108 15 109 15 110 15 111 15 112 15 113 15 114 15 115 15 116 15 117 15 118 15 119 15 120 15 121 15 122 15 123 15 124 15 125 15 126 15 127 15 128 15 129 15 130 15 131 15 132 15 133 15 134 15 135 15 136 15 137 15 138 15 139 15 140 15 141 15 142 15 143 15 144 15 145 15 146 15 147 15 148 15 149 15 150 15 151 15 152 15 153 15 154 15 155 15 156 15 157 15 158 15 159 15 160 15 161 15 162 15 163 15 164 15 165 15 166 15 167 15 168 15 169 15 170 15 171 15 172 15 173 15 174 15 175 15 176 15 177 15 178 15 179 15 180 15 181 15 182 15 183 15 184 15 185 15 186 15 187 15 188 15 189 15 190 15 191 15 192 15 193 15 194 15 195 15 196 15 197 15 198 15 199 15 200 15 201 15 202 15 203 15 204 15 205 15 206 15 207 15 208 15 209 15 210 15 211 15 212 15 213 15 214 15 215 15 216 15 217 15 218 15 219 15 220 15 221 15 222 15 223 15 224 15 225 15 226 15 227 15 228 15 229 15 230 15 231 15 232 15 233 15 234 15 235 15 236 15 237 15 238 15 239 15 240 15 241 15 242 15 243 15 244 15 245 15 246 15 247 15 248 15 249 15 250 15 251 15 252 15 253 15 254 15 255 15 256 15 257 15 258 15 259 15 260 15 261 15 262 15 263 15 264 15 265 15 266 15 267 15 268 15 269 15 270 15 271 15 272 15 273 15 274 15 275 15 276 15 277 15 278 15 279 15 280 15 281 15 282 15 283 15 284 15 285 15 286 15 287 15 288 15 289 15 290 15 291 15 292 15 293 15 294 15 295 15 296 15 297 15 298 15 299 15 200 15 201 15 202 15 203 15 204 15 205 15 206 15 207 15 208 15 209 15 210 15 211 15 212 15 213 15 214 15 215 15 216 15 217 15 218 15 219 15 220



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الجولان

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-28
- LAW 30
- SPORT 31-36

THE TIMES

25

BUSINESS

MONDAY NOVEMBER 26 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

CBI forecasts 2.3% drop in factory output

By PHILIP BASSETT AND COLIN NARBROOK

THE Confederation of British Industry has joined the most gloomy economic forecasters in predicting that output will fall for four successive quarters, starting in the last three months of this year, and that manufacturing output will drop by 2.3 per cent in 1991.

This short-term pessimism is strongly tempered, however, by signs that sectors hit early in the recession have already passed their nadir, giving some confidence that

Business confidence at lowest for decade

THE CBI's latest monthly survey shows that manufacturers are expecting output to fall over the next four months.

On balance, more companies expect the volume of output to decline than at any time since December 1980, the onset of the early Eighties recession.

David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said that overall demand remained weak, and profit margins were under considerable pressure. Many manufacturers were looking for interest rates to be cut as quickly as possible.

About 39 per cent of companies expect the volume of output to decline over the next four-month period, continuing a trend since July of falling output expectations. The "balance" of 23 per cent expecting output to fall compares with a figure for October of 17 per cent. Stocks are reported to be adequate, and price expectations weak.

The CBI survey, based on replies from 1,379 companies received between October 30 and November 14, shows that 55 per cent of companies are reporting order books at below-normal levels.

Demand was particularly weak in metal manufacturing, followed by engineering. Taking into account those reporting orders above-normal, a balance of 44 per cent have below-normal order books, the same as in October.

Mr Wigglesworth said this indicated some hope that the fall in domestic orders might be reaching a low point.

Export order books have weakened markedly since October, with a "balance" of 31 per cent reporting insufficient orders compared with 23 per cent.

Shell oil find

Brunei Shell Petroleum, part of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, says it has discovered large deposits of gas and light oil about 37 miles offshore north of the Brunei capital.

THE POUND:
CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.9675 (+0.010)
W German mark 2.9227 (+0.0319)
Exchange index 94.3 (+0.5)

STOCK MARKET:
FT 30 Share 1712.2 (+97.4)
FT-SE 100 2170.5 (+102.5)
New York Dow Jones 2527.23 (-23.02)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23400.28 (+228.66)

TOURIST RATES:

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.54	2.49
Austria Sch	21.45	20.15
Belgium Fr	10.10	9.80
Canada \$	2.37	2.30
Denmark Kr	11.70	11.00
Finland Mark	7.59	8.20
France Fr	12.55	12.50
Germany Dm	3.05	2.95
Great Brit	319	298
Hong Kong \$	15.83	15.10
Ireland Pt	2.55	2.50
Italy Lira	264.50	260.50
Japan Yen	11.50	11.20
Netherlands Gld	3.425	3.35
Norway Kr	11.50	11.20
Portugal Esc	1.55	1.50
South Africa Rand	6.25	6.75
Suisse Fr	1.92	1.85
Sweden Kr	1.35	1.30
UK £	1.974	1.95
USA \$	2.045	2.02
Yugoslavia Dinar	57.50	57.00

For small denominations, bank rates apply by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to bankers' cheques. Retail Price Index: 130.3 (October).

economic activity will pick up in the second half of next year.

In its latest economic situation report, the CBI says that the downturn in the economy is expected to continue in the first half of 1991, but that "the forecasts point to a recovery in economic activity in the second half of 1991".

Forecasting a 1 per cent decline in economic activity in 1991 as a whole - against the Chancellor's forecast of 0.5 per cent growth - the CBI says: "The cost of achieving a downward trend in inflation will prove to be a very significant downturn in economic activity at the end of this year and the early part of next year."

CBI leaders say anecdotal evidence suggests that some sectors that were hit earliest by the recession may now be past the worst, raising confidence that the recession can be contained and will not be as severe as in the early Eighties.

Some business leaders were reporting guarded optimism in such areas as truck sales at a meeting of the CBI's economic situation committee last week.

The CBI has sharply altered its estimates of output, based on the evidence of its own trends survey, which shows business confidence at its lowest for a decade. Three months ago, the CBI was expecting manufacturing output to fall back, with the economy remaining flat until next year. Output was forecast to grow by 1.3 per cent this year and by 0.3 per cent in 1991. Now, because overall economic activity is already declining, the CBI is expecting manufacturing output this

year to grow by only 0.3 per cent, and to fall by 2.3 per cent next year.

The CBI says unemployment will continue to increase beyond the end of the recession in output, rising to 2.1 million by early 1992. Retail price inflation, currently 10.9 per cent, will fall to 5.4 per cent by the end of 1991, virtually in line with Treasury forecasts, and to 4.5 per cent by the end of the following year.

The current account deficit, forecast by the Treasury to be £13.5 billion this year, will fall to £9.8 billion next year, the CBI says, followed by £9.2 billion in 1992.

The CBI's forecasts are based on expectations that the government will reduce interest rates to 12 per cent by next summer and that there is no further fighting in the Gulf.

City opinion remains divided on the depth and severity of the recession. Andrew Milligan, UK economic adviser to Lloyd's Bank, sees weak recovery in the second half of 1991 to allow 0.7 per cent growth for the full year. But, as a result of ERM entry, he expects weak growth for the next five years, averaging 2 per cent, or about half the level achieved during the late Eighties.

Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International, believes the recession will be deep and severe, with the economy shrinking 0.75 per cent next year after 0.5 per cent growth this.

The current account deficit is forecast to narrow to below £10 billion in 1991, but remaining stuck around this level.

The Scots are already agreed that they are having to

take third place in the privatisation of the power industry.

But the narrow window within which they can be sold is illustrative of the tight schedule to which the government has to adhere. It must also avoid a clash with the second call on the 12 distributors, which is payable in October.

The City is keen that all the

shares in the two generators should be sold at once. But John Wakeham, the energy secretary, who agonised over whether to sell all of the

distributors, believes there is more reason to retain some of the generators.

They are perceived as far riskier investments than the rest of the industry, so it is plausible that a second sale, several years after, when the

stock market had formed a proper assessment of them, might raise more funds.

The final political hitch over the sale of the 12 distributors next month rests on City fears over Labour's plans to regain state control of the National Grid Company, which the 12 jointly own.

The loss of the National Grid would cut off about 10 per cent of their profits.

Michael Davis, chairman of the National Grid, said his company had adopted strategies to head off BT's proposed move, including the signing of an agreement with Teleglobe of Switzerland, which has bought the world's largest private digital network.

Mr Davis said the company would also be looking to Mercury and the networks of British Rail Telecom to buy bulk line capacity as soon as they came on line. National Grid will apply to build its own network, as part of the government's monopoly review, which is expected to report in January.

The trade and industry department's consultative document on telecommunications policy for the 1990s, published less than two weeks ago, opens the way for competition to reduce prices. BT is moving to block one of the main ways in which it can work," Mr Davis said.

A spokesman for BT confirmed the company was planning to review its pricing policy in the spring. He described details contained in the leaked document as "hypothetical", saying: "No decision has been taken yet."

Kingfisher looks at French bid

By OUR CITY STAFF

KINGFISHER: the retail group that owns Comet, Superdrug, Woolworths and B&Q is believed to be gearing up for a sizeable takeover or joint venture, a year after its £70 million bid for Dixons, the electrical retailer, was banned by the Monopolies Commission.

The group is in talks with Darty, the largest electrical retailer in France. A merger or joint venture would give Kingfisher an entry into Europe and allow its Comet chain to grow without facing monopolies problems.

Nigel Whittaker, Kingfisher's director of corporate affairs, said the group, in common with many retailers, was looking at Europe.

Kingfisher is known to study carefully every opportunity in its markets and is the subject of bid rumours. Its name has been linked to a series of vague acquisition stories in recent weeks, including Storehouse, Sears and, least likely of all, Rathers. Kingfisher took a serious look at Boots before its purchase of Ward White but with a market capitalisation of £1.7 billion, Kingfisher is considerably smaller than Boots, valued at more than £3 billion.

Kingfisher is surviving the recession better than most retailers and is in a strong position to take advantage of the depressed value of its competitors' shares by making an acquisition.



Sorrell: retains confidence

still trading extremely profitably, panic selling ensued.

Analysts are concerned that even if the group makes £90 million this year, next year's pre-tax profit may be no more than £70 million. WPP's debt is expected to be about £315 million by the year-end and there are worries about interest and debt repayment covenants and the prospects for the dividend.

But WPP is expected to retain the confidence of its bankers who are unlikely to push the group to take any drastic action immediately. Their first priority is to see City confidence restored to the months ahead.

Denitsa, the largest Japanese agency, which only weeks ago announced it was taking a 40 per cent stake in Collett Dickenson Pearce, the advertising agency, may do a similar deal with WPP. Denitsa has a 20 per cent stake in the HDM network in Europe, a partnership between Denitsa, Eurocom and Youme and Rubin.

Other large Japanese agencies have also announced plans to expand in Europe and America and a partnership with WPP could be ideal.

The most obvious disposal for WPP would be the sale of Scali McCabe Sloves, the American agency which recently lost the Volvo account. Scali owns 22 per cent of Abbott Mead Vickers, the British agency, and a merger of the two is possible.

The special dividend would put US\$1 billion into Harts.

Harts debt includes US\$2 billion of interest-bearing debt and US\$860 million of preference shares after being forced into a takeover of Elders last year. One hope for Harts is that the market will respond to Mr Bartels' attempts to cut debt and lift Elders' share price.

The boom in Far East aviation market

is growing so fast that within ten years it is predicted that 40 per cent of all international traffic will be centred on the region. To cope with the demand, Singapore has invested well over £200 million in building another terminal at Changi airport. Its futuristically named "Airtropolis", which has just formally opened, will double capacity from 15 million passengers a year to 30 million but could turn into a costly white elephant as airlines face the possibility of a sharp fall in passenger numbers.

The Singapore government is still hoping for a change of mind by BA and is trying to persuade other European airlines to take part. Ho Beng Hui, deputy director general of the Civil Aviation Authority for Singapore, said yesterday: "We hope we will become the aviation hub of the region. We can take all the comers and will encourage other airlines to set up a base here."

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Singapore's Changi airport was opened in 1981 and swiftly grew as it

opened as it

Taxpayers could face oil bill of £3.4bn

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TAXPAYERS could have to pay £3.4 billion for removing North Sea oil rigs as production winds down. This prospect is concentrating minds on how to ensure every last drop of oil is extracted.

Pressure is growing for changes in the tax regime to discourage premature abandonment of installations. A round of consultations has begun between the House of Commons energy select committee and operators to establish who will carry the cost, liabilities and other obligations arising from 23 years of offshore production.

The questions are becoming urgent as the North Sea becomes a "mature" oil province. Two of the 150 production platforms, Crawford and Argyll, could cease output within the next two years.

Argyll was the first to pump oil, 15 years ago. Gas production, in the West Sole field in the southern sector, began eight years earlier. Many platforms will reach the end of their useful life in ten years.

Under International Maritime Organisation rules outlined in the 1987 Petroleum Act, structures in the shallow southern sector of the North Sea, mostly involving gas, will have to be removed.

In the northern and central areas, where the water is deeper, many platforms may be removed only to a depth of 55 metres below the surface. Others may be allowed to stand, subject to maintenance checks and provision of adequate lighting and buoyage.

The decision lies with the government, subject to obligations

to ensure safety of navigation, and satisfy fisheries. If deepwater jackets are left standing, the £4 billion bill suggested by the UK Offshore Operators Association for removal would be trimmed to £2.8 billion.

Barges working in tandem can now lift "jackets" weighing up to 10,000 tonnes from the sea bed. But the northernmost platform in the North Sea, Magnus, is a 40,400-tonne steel tower standing in 186 metres of water. Ninian, a concrete gravity jacket standing in the central field, weighs more than 200,000 tonnes.

There are also more than 3,000 miles of sub-sea pipeline. The difficulties of removing some structures appear almost insurmountable.

Under existing North Sea tax rules, companies pay up to 85 per cent of profits to the exchequer in petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax. However, they can also offset 85 per cent of the costs of capital spending against taxes.

Thus, it is the taxpayer who will, in large part, be liable for the costs of abandonment. There will be considerable appeal for the government to adopt the lowest-cost solution.

At the beginning of the Eighties, a high-tax regime almost strangled the UK North Sea oil industry. But for most of the past decade, the Continental Shelf has been a source of immense revenue for the Treasury. As the century draws to a close, and tax payments decline, the operators will claw back more tax relief to finance a tidy withdrawal.

Greece expected to seek loan from EC

By OUR CITY STAFF

GREECE is expected to apply formally to the European Commission for a loan of up to 500 billion drachmas (£1.6 billion) before the year-end to aid its ailing economy.

The loan would be a traditional balance of payments loan. Greece had a \$2.6 billion balance of payments deficit in the first seven months of the year, and some economists expect the deficit to reach \$2.8 billion by the end of the year.

against \$2.5 billion in 1989.

Constantine Mitsotakis, Greece's prime minister, has introduced tax and price rises and fiscal changes to combat a big public deficit and an annual inflation rate at nearly 22 per cent. But the loan may carry tough conditions as pressure mounts for Greece to take an even firmer hold on the economic reins in preparation for economic and monetary union.

THE JEWELLERY market, which has been the retail success story of the Eighties, with growth of 84 per cent between 1983 and 1989, is beginning to feel the effects of the economic recession, says a report by Verdict, the market researcher.

The report says the weakening of demand began to emerge after the imposition of the community charge, and with the recession now well entrenched in the high street

there are clear signs that

demand has already weakened in the approach to Christmas.

A quarter of total sales take place in December. Verdict says trading has been especially tough since April, with volumes declining in August and September. "The last time volumes declined in the summer was 1985 and Christmas was poor that year," the report says.

Despite the gloomy background, the report expects the jewellery market to grow by 8.2 per cent in 1990, giving a value of £2.6 billion.

The dominance of Ratners

Group, which owns H Samuel, Watches of Swindon, Zales and Salisbury in Britain, continues with a 30 per cent share of the British market.

Ratners' sales are now rising at about 15 per cent on last year, but analysts believe Gerald Ratner, chairman and chief executive, may have difficulty in achieving his aim of 25 per cent sales growth this Christmas. Ratners has introduced Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles watches at £49.95, which are selling at the rate of 50 a day in each shop.

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Last week this column was devoted to the imaginary doctrine of Heseltineomics. It is now time to examine the economic policies of Mr Heseltine's opponents. Since Douglas Hurd has no known economic views and would keep John Major as Chancellor, it is sufficient to focus on Mr Major.

While Mr Heseltine's policies seem more akin to a revolution than an evolution from Thatcherism, Mr Major's tend in the opposite direction. Majorism stands for almost no change at all, at least on the economic front. This should hardly be surprising, considering Mr Major's present position. But it does seem at odds with the hinge swing towards him in the opinion polls — a point of considerable economic and financial significance, as we shall see below.

Mr Major is not the only one who suddenly appears able to trouble Labour. The same is true of Hurd, Heseltine and Uncle Tom Cobley. In fact, anyone but Mrs Thatcher. There is one proviso — the general election must be held within a day or so, before voters realize that a change

at Number 10 may leave intact most of the unpopular policies identified with Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Major has suggested six lines of evolution for post-Thatcherite economic thinking. He would review the poll tax (but not at the cost of higher income tax), reduce interest rates (but not at the cost of higher inflation), extraplate inflation (but not at the cost of higher interest rates), cooperate with Europe (but not at the cost of Britain's sovereignty), improve rewards for blue-collar workers (but not at the cost of higher pay), and increase pay for teachers (but not at the cost of more money). The qualifications seem to rule out any significant progress on most of these commitments. The exceptions are interest rates and Europe.

Financial markets are speculating on a cut in interest rates within days or weeks of Mr Major coming to power. Analysts no longer ask what sort of message this would send to pay

bargainers or how it would accord with Chancellor Major's promise to wait for a "safe" opportunity to cut rates. They are talking as if Mrs Thatcher personally were the main cause of Britain's inflation. The markets have decided to stop worrying about inflation as soon as the Thatcher moving van pulls away from Number 10. The plan is to concentrate on Europe and the opinion polls from then on.

That is great news for Mr Major, since he looks like a guaranteed election winner and is prepared to cut a deal on European monetary union. Ergo he will enjoy a honeymoon with the financial markets and have greater leeway to cut interest rates. That will make a Conser-

vative election victory even more certain. The "golden scenario" is back. The glint is no longer obscured by that overbearing shadow with the handbag.

Mr Heseltine could enjoy the same golden scenario, but Mr Major can claim a further advantage. He has a policy on Europe, the hard ecu, that can unite the Conservative party from Euro federalists to Thatcherite diehards. Thus Majorism enjoys a further unity premium in the financial markets, a sort of Tory peace dividend that can be handed out in interest rates and tax cuts before the election.

There is just one problem: the hard ecu can unite the Conservative party, but it cannot unite Britain with the rest of

Europe. The other European countries regard the hard ecu plan as a bad joke. They specifically rejected it at the European summit last month and may do so again next month. The reason has been made clear repeatedly by the Bundesbank.

For the Bundesbank the key question about monetary union is simple: which other countries are willing and able to accept the same monetary discipline as Germany? As far as the Germans are concerned, the only serious candidates are countries that will submit their monetary policies to politically independent central banks and ultimately to a European bank with statutes based on the Bundesbank's.

Mr Heseltine has endorsed central bank independence, leading to permanently locked exchange rates against the mark. Mr Major has stuck to Thatcher tradition and rejected both.

The hard ecu plan is deliberately designed to avoid this

sticky issue of central bank independence and is therefore incompatible with the approach to monetary union pursued by the other European countries under German pressure. If this is all that Mr Major (or Mr Hurd) has to offer at next month's summit he will again find himself in a minority of one, however softly he modulates his voice.

Mrs Thatcher was right when she said that her differences with the cabinet were over matters of style rather than substance. But her differences with Europe were all too substantial. If the next prime minister wants to break out of Britain's isolation he will have to change the content of Thatcherism, as well as its strident "mood and style".

The same could be true of winning a general election. After the initial euphoria is over, the new prime minister will have to change policy, especially economic policy, in order to consolidate electoral support. The golden scenario of Thatcherism without Thatcher is probably fool's gold. If so, the markets and the Conservative party may be riding for a fall.

Economic consequences of Mr Major

ANATOLE KALETSKY

AT FIRST glance this week's offer for sale of shares in Trio Investment Trust looks, frankly, rather boring.

Managed by the little-known FEP, the trust plans to invest at least 75 per cent of its portfolio in Footsie stocks with the remainder in quoted stocks valued at more than £250 million. The aim is for a 5 per cent yield.

Nothing new in all that and the small-size-of-the-initial-£4-million issue does not seem designed to secure liquidity in the trust's shares.

But there is a twist. Because more than 50 per cent of the company's portfolio will consist of quoted UK equities, its shares can be held in a PEP. An investor can put the full £6,000 annual PEP allowance into a newly floated qualifying investment trust. So the first £6,000 invested in the trust will receive returns free of capital gains and income tax. No great shock so far.

However, a tucked-away clause in the prospectus points out that the company's authorised share capital is ten times its initial issued share capital. Another small print paragraph states that the direction plan to increase the capital base of the company through a rights issue "in the very near future". In theory, the company could increase its capital tenfold, and apparently intends to do so.

If so, a hole-in-the-Pep legislation means that the additional shares subscribed for by shareholders through the rights issue will also qualify for Pep tax status. So, suddenly, a £6,000 tax-free investment becomes a £60,000 tax-free investment.

For the wealthy private investor who has not reached the Pep investment limit and is bullish on the risks in UK equities, Trio is worth a second look.

Meggitt

DEFENCE-RELATED stocks have been out of favour since the transformation of eastern Europe, despite Saddam Hussein, but Meggit has come down faster than the Berlin Wall.

Meggitt shares changed hands at 123p 14 months ago.

Trio Trust tucks away a chance of some brio



Chilling message for second half Julian Ogilvie Thompson

But that was when the wall still stood, engineering businesses were doing well and before the debacle of its bid for United Scientific Holdings.

Anxieties over the group's direction have surfaced since the change in the international climate, and while there can be little doubt about the wisdom of abandoning the US bid, the affair badly dented sentiment. But has it justified the price underperforming the market by 40 per cent?

The standstill in interim pre-tax profits reported two

months ago was if anything a triumph, given the conditions.

Meggitt has completed almost 30 acquisitions since 1984. Orders were still ahead of sales in September, despite the weakness in defence and electronics, while civil aerospace contributed more profits in the six months than in the previous 12.

Meggitt is unlikely to match last year's £26.1 million year-end, and can hardly expect much growth in 1991, when County, NatWest, the house broker, looks for £28 million.

That prospect is for marginally lower attributable earnings and earnings (possibly down from 1,335 cents to 1,245 cents a share). But if the final dividend is maintained, like the 85 cent interim payment, making an unchanged 325 cents for the year, Anglo shares at £13.80 would sell at 5.5 times prospective earnings and yield 4.8 per cent. They are solid enough for investors seeking an across-the-board entry into a post-apartheid South Africa. But until the economy again stands on steeper legs, time is on buyers' side.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No more o' Berlin

JOHN Major is scheduled to conduct the formal opening of Nomura Securities' grand new City offices in the old General Post Office building in St Martin's le Grand, near St Paul's Cathedral, tomorrow morning. Given his other business that day, Nomura executives would not be too upset if he could not make it. Since Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Hugh Smith, the chairman of the International Stock Exchange, and the Japanese ambassador are also scheduled to attend, Japan's number one securities house is in no real danger of having to rely on an unworthy substitute. The distinguished gathering is some indication how keen the City is for Nomura to keep its European base in Britain. Talk that Nomura was to move its European headquarters to Berlin, just weeks after moving into its expensive new London flagship, is unfounded. Staff were alarmed to read last week that the entire operation would be shipped to Berlin. Not so, says Keith Clarke, the spokesman who was quoted as forecasting the move in ten years' time. He was only indicating that with the economic centre of gravity shifting towards mid-Europe, this would have to be reflected in staffing policies, with the Berlin office trebling to about 300 while the London office grew at a slower rate. "We're firmly committed

to London, and this will remain the regional headquarters for the European division," he adds.

Quality first

ANGST that unification with East Germany's decrepit economy could weaken the selling power of the Made in Germany mark of origin, has helped the Bonn government to come up with a DM200 million programme to enhance quality control. The four-year scheme is aimed primarily at small and medium-sized firms, which often suffer the most under the burden of quality control. Heinz Riesenhuber, the federal research minister, makes clear that the money must go well towards ensuring quality well before the production stage — 90 per cent of spending on quality control still goes towards

correcting faults after the product is made. Only 10 per cent is used to help prevent errors. Not surprisingly, Herr Riesenhuber thinks this is the wrong approach, since three-quarters of all quality faults occur in the planning and development stage. With this kind of focus on quality, no wonder German firms can export successfully, however strong the mark is.

IN NEW Zealand an economist is urging families to register their children as sheep. That way, he says, their food, accommodation and other expenses, including medical bills, would be tax deductible. Even better, mothers might even be eligible for shepherds' wages. The idea is not without logic. New Zealand has a sheep population of 68 million and a human population of only 3 million.

Own goal

A GROUP of dealers from Wise Speke, the regional broker, are taking to the turf to promote their latest venture — the flotation of Newcastle United football club. For the dealers, based in the London office, have challenged a team of market-makers from Barclays de Zoete Wedd to a game of football tonight. And for good measure, they will be wearing the black and white stripes of Newcastle United.

The firm is acting as sponsor to the club which plans to come to the market early next month. "This is our way of promoting the launch," says Jeremy Pepper, who joined from Charlton Seal Schaefer, the broker, after it was shut in August. "We used to play five a side football every week before joining Wise Speke," he adds. His opponents at BZW include Alan Bristow, who is expected to live up to his trading nickname of... the Goalie.

TOMORROW

Allied-Lyons, the food and drinks group chaired by Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, is expected to turn in half-year pre-tax profits of £285 million, against £260 million last time, according to John Spicer at Kleinwort Benson. Market forecasts range from £135 million to £140 million.

Allied's profits will be held back by higher interest charges after the acquisition of Whitbread's wines and spirits businesses, which will not make an impact on profits until the second half.

Northern Foods, the Hull food manufacturer, should benefit from higher levels of efficiency and hygiene.

Country, NatWest WoodMac expects half-year pre-tax profits to climb to £46.2 million, against a pre-tax of £40.3 million.

Insiders: Allied-Lyons, Arntes

Group, Argyl Group, Caron Group, Europa Group, Gower Group, Heinz Riesenhuber, H. M. Thompson & Evershed, Northern Foods, Southwicks, Vosper Thornycroft, Hodge Walker & Scott Hodge, Finsbury Anglo Scandinavian Invest Ltd, Apollo Metals, Radio City (Sound of Merseyside), Rosehaugh, Young & Rubicam.

Wednesday

The second half at Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, may have been a little disappointing, particularly at Staley where cost overruns could have resulted in flat dollar profits.

John Aspinwall at Smith New

Court expects final pre-tax profits to advance from £77.2 million to £85 million. Market forecasts range from £80 million to £88 million.

Wednesday

Despite a weak advertising market, Capital Radio, the London commercial radio and broadcasting group, is expected to unveil a small increase in full year profits.

North West Water will be the second of three water companies reporting interim results this week.

Laksh Athanasiou at UBS

Phillips & Drew, who prefers North West to the water share package, has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £108 million, against a pre-tax of £91.2 million last time. Market forecasts range from £100 to £108 million.

Wednesday

Despite a weak advertising market, Capital Radio, the London commercial radio and broadcasting group, is expected to unveil a small increase in full year profits.

Year-on-year advertising revenue is expected to be down by about 5 per cent, largely due to an estimated 20 per cent downturn in a very soft final quarter, which could have knocked off £1 million

million to £25 million. Market forecasts range from £80 million to £88 million.

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IT TAKES FAITH IN SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE TO PLANT A TREE.

So what does it take to plant 65 million?

Some 2,000 new jobs, R150 million and the ability to take the long view.

And that needs the vision, money and sound judgement that only big business can bring to big projects. Mondi, one of our associate companies, is very big business indeed.

Founded only twenty three years ago by Anglo American and associates, it is today one of South Africa's major pulp and paper producers, its biggest private sector forester and a key competitor on world markets with an annual turnover of more than R2 billion.

Eight years ago Mondi built a pulp mill. At today's prices that mill would cost R3 billion; more than an opencast diamond or coal mine. That took foresight and confidence in the future.

So, too, does Mondi's giant new

afforestation scheme in the north-eastern Cape where the first timber will be harvested some time in the next century.

Once full production is reached these forests will yield more than 1 million tons of timber a year, earning the South Africa of the future vital foreign exchange. And, by planting trees rather than cutting down natural forests, Mondi is helping the world to breathe.

Its concern for the environment does not end there. A world leader in soil mapping, it takes care to match the species to the site to prevent soil erosion.

Only 56,000 of the 80,000 hectares will be afforested, leaving most of the remainder as a

conservation area where it will promote bird-life and antelope herds and stock trout streams.

Investing now for the benefit of the future South Africa, competing internationally in a global industry, earning foreign exchange, creating employment, taking the long view.

It's what big business does - without being a drain on public money.

Political freedom will mean little if it is not underpinned by economic growth - growth that is essential if the South Africa of the future is to realise the hopes and expectations of all its people: for jobs, education and housing.

South Africa will continue to need companies like Anglo American Corporation with the vision and the resources to invest in the future.

Thinking big. Thinking ahead. It is what we do. And what we do best.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Golden Minstrel can spark Gifford double

By MANDARIN

JOSH Gifford, whose Findon string is enjoying an excellent November, looks the trainer to follow at Folkestone today. Twelve of the stable's 19 victories this season have come this month and that fine run should be maintained this afternoon by Golden Minstrel (3.0) and Southern Supreme (3.0).

Golden Minstrel has proved a wonderful servant to Gifford, winning ten races and more than £57,000 in prize-money over eight seasons. His finest hour came in the Kim Muir at the 1983 Cheltenham festival but he showed he was no back number last season when his good performances included a third to Wont Be Gone Long in the John Hughes Memorial Trophy at Aintree.

This term, Golden Minstrel has finished second to Boraceva at Fontwell in October and third behind Topsham Bay and Biggan at Cheltenham on November 4 when he still looked in need of the run.

The 34 miles of today's Bouvere Handicap Chase should bring his stumps fully into play and give him the edge over Rosco Harvey, who has some fair placed form over three miles but has yet to win beyond 2½ miles and has to concede my selection 5lb.

Since being well beaten by the talented Golden Celtic at Uttoxeter in early October, Hilarion has won comfortably at Southwell and Windsor. His experience should stand him in good stead today against promising types such as Le Chat Noir, Patricio and Free Agent.

Mary Reveyley holds a strong hand at Catterick where

Southern Supreme showed promise on each of his three runs last season and looked much more the finished article when overcoming his lack of a recent race to beat the dual winner Mister Gobbo by half a length at Windsor a week ago.

The fact that Gifford runs this chasing type again so soon looks significant in itself and he should hold too many guns for East River, most disappointing when beaten at 9-2 on at Ascot ten days ago, in the Bracken Novices' Hurdle.

A bigger danger to my

selection may be Saddler's

Choice, who made a pleasing

introduction to hurdling when ninth in a big field at Bangor in April and has since moved from Nick Gasee to John Edwards.

However Saddler's Choice

faces, Edwards should be on

the mark in the day's most

valuable race, the Daily Mail

Novices' Chase, with the tro

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Mary Reveyley holds a

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Flight Hill (nap, 12.45), Leven

Baby (2.45) and Majestic

Golfe (3.45) can give the

Salisbury trainer a treble.

Flight Hill, a half-brother to

Prideaux Boy, makes strong

appeal in the White Horse

Novices' Hurdle. When

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including a sixth of 19 to

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After falling on his first run

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- RUGBY UNION 31
- RACING 33
- FOOTBALL 34-35

SPORT

Lamb takes the blame for self-destruction

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
BRISBANE

ALLAN Lamb, his face drained by a day of cricket self-destruction, last night blamed himself for the batting collapse which provoked England's first three-day Test defeat in Australia for 37 years.

Lamb, whose record as stand-in captain is now a melancholy three defeats in three Tests, was also frank as he surveyed the wreckage of a promising start to England's Ashes campaign. "We have got a lot of work to put in if we are even going to compete with the Australians," he said.

England, dismissed for 194 at

Brisbane's Woolloongabba ground on Friday, retaliated with such purpose on Saturday that they claimed a first-innings lead of 42. But then, needing a minimum of 250 to put Australia under pressure on a pitch which had lost its early malice, they were bowled out for a lamentable 114.

Requiring 157 to win, Australia did not lose a wicket as they beat England with two days to spare, something they have not achieved since 1938 and not in their own country since 1903-04.

Lamb is not often bowed into solemnity but he appeared drawn and emotional when the game ended. He explained: "I am dis-

appointed with myself more than anything, because I was the guy in form and I should have got the big score we needed. Someone had to get a hundred or 150. I blame myself."

Lamb was out in the first over of the day to Terry Alderman, who went on to take six for 47 and resume his extraordinary hypothesis of England's batting. Alderman has now taken 91 wickets in 13 Tests against England; in his last seven, his total is 49 at an average of only 16 runs apiece.

In the aftermath of a stunning defeat, Lamb was contrite. "A score of 114, with the pitch as it was today, is just not acceptable," he

said. "Every batsman knows his own strengths and what he should be doing in Test cricket. Most of us have done it before. Today, nobody did what was necessary."

"It had been a good fightback on Saturday and to end up losing by ten wickets really rubs salt in the wound. But, to be honest, we didn't look like taking a wicket and we have got to play a lot better than we did here to have any chance."

England's team manager, Micky Stewart, characteristically deflected all talk of team changes, specifically dodging questions about the opening batsmen. Wayne Larkins failed in both innings of this match and looked out of his

depth, and although Mike Atherton occupied the crease for two-and-a-half hours, he made only 13 and 15.

Larkins, who was unable to field yesterday due to the effects of an abscess in his mouth, is clearly the most vulnerable player, especially with Hugh Morris, a brave and positive opener, due to arrive in Adelaide tomorrow.

England's team manager, Micky Stewart, characteristically deflected all talk of team changes, specifically dodging questions about the opening batsmen. Wayne Larkins failed in both innings of this match and looked out of his

virtually the next month, then just one first-class match before the second Test, in Melbourne, starting on Boxing Day.

Allan Border, Australia's captain, joined in the general criticism of the schedule, saying: "It would have been ideal to have another Test before Christmas." But he refused to gloat after claiming his fifth win in seven Tests against England, and nor would he be drawn into writing off the series.

"We had a few heart tremors before winning this one," he pointed out. "I accept that we are favourites now, but I accept it warily."

Time to pause and admire

DAVID MILLER

THERE was no reason for shame in Great Britain's 14-0 loss to Australia in the third and final rugby league international at Leeds on Saturday. The defeat should be seen for what it was: a fine team yielding to a better one.

What has distinguished the Australians this autumn is that, caught on the wrong foot in the opening match at Wembley, they raised their game, by relentless application of their qualities, to an intensity at which being second was no part of their vocabulary.

When Elias scored their third try eight minutes from the end, I had no sense of depression, simply one of admiration, and I'm sure it was the same for many there. Sorry for Hanley and his willing team, yes; yet the Australians had been sharper, harder, quicker and stickier from first kick to last.

That is not to say Britain were outplayed. In the 40 minutes between Ettingshausen's opening try and Menninga's second, there had been memorably anxious moments in which Britain threatened to haul themselves back into contention.

In a game for men, the losers were no less brave, no less tenacious than the winners, just not quite in the same class. When we come to look back upon the series, the turning point, to my mind, was Smart's last-gasp 70-yard run, bringing Menninga's winning try, at 10-10 in the second match. With a guaranteed share of the series going into the final match, Britain's psychology might have been that priceless shade more confident.

When Hanley led out his men to a stirring rendition of *Land of Hope and Glory* by the Leeds Philharmonic Chorus, at a steady walk, it was difficult to tell if this low-key emergence from the tunnel portrayed dignity or anxiety. Within moments, we knew what was the mood of the opposition. Intimidatory.

The Australians halted every British move with the changing finality of a wander shutting the door in Sing-Sing. There was an awesome quality about Australia's power. In possession, Roach, Lazarus and the massive Sirimon would carry three opponents on their shoulders a dozen yards before being halted.

The crisp assurance of Australia's handling was probably the most marked difference. The ball would skim across the field with unfaltering, stoic precision, despite the rain, to send Ettingshausen, Menninga or Daley, moving on a crescendo of power. If Stuart at scrum-half, with justification, was the official man of the match, my preference would have been for the subtleties, the feigned pass and ball slipped the other way, almost unnoticed, by Lyons at stand-off.

Britain's handling was by comparison loose, with Gregor's service, admittedly under pressure, often shipshaped. The backs were snatching at passes, misdirected high and low. As the ball arrived, they would simultaneously be struck witheringly by a green-shirted tank.

Match report, page 32

Alderman haunts England yet again

From ALAN LEE

ALLAN Border could not recall another Test match like it. At breakfast-time yesterday, the captain of Australia was suffering the strain of a sleepless night and a game he feared could run away from him. Before sundown, he was bemusedly reflecting on a three-day win by ten wickets.

In the Australian dressing-room there was a party, the team stereo blasting out its regular victory theme. Thus Turner's *Simply the Best*. Next door was silent and sombre as the England players wondered how they had allowed a dramatic fight-back to turn into spineless surrender in the space of a few hours.

It was strikingly reminiscent of the series in England in 1989, except that even then, amid four resounding defeats, England were never dismissed for a score as paltry as 114, nor did they suffer a day of such humiliation as this. In two-and-a-half hours, England contrived to lose seven wickets for 58; in the next three hours, they failed to take a wicket as Australia rattled off the 157 needed for victory.

There is no question where this game was won and lost: it happened with the last ball of the day's opening over. Terry Alderman skidded his outswinger through a jumpy defensive stroke and dismissed Allan Lamb leg-before.

Lamb had been the cause of Border's restless night and grouchy mood. Late on Saturday evening, Border had dropped the England captain at second slip off Hughes. As slip catches go, it was simple. As misses go, Border consid-

ered it potentially catastrophic. "I dropped it another 200 times as I tried to sleep," he admitted. "You always paint the worst scenario and I imagined Lamb making the century which won England the match."

Alderman quickly saved his captain from his nightmare.

Lamb, anxious to assert control as England resumed with a lead of 98 and seven wickets standing, pulled his second ball abrasively for four, but he failed to see out the over as Alderman began a decisive spell of five wickets for 16 runs, instantly reviving his grip on an England side against which he took 41 wickets in six Tests last year.

Border was at slip again,

offering a prayer as umpire

McConnell gravely considered

the appeal before sentencing a crestfallen Lamb. Alderman was ecstatic. He said: "We had never seen A. B. [Border] so depressed as he was after missing that catch and it was incentive enough for all the bowlers to get out there and do the job."

Alderman did the job all

right, and last night it must

have been England's batsmen

who suffered the nightmares,

if indeed they slept at all. The

innings figures of six for 47

were the best of Alderman's

Test career in only his second

home game against England;

the first, at Perth eight years

ago, ended differently when he

attempted a tackle on a

spectator invading the pitch

and sustained a shoulder injury which jeopardised his

playing future.

Australia did still require

five runs more than their first

innings score to win the game,

but the comparison was irrelevant.

From the start of play yesterday, it was evident that the pitch had reformed in character. It was now comfortable to bat upon, which condemned the England batsmen all the louder.

Small, preferred to Malcolm with the new ball, was wild and wide in his first spell; Fraser had no rhythm and 30 were on the board in eight overs. Summoning Malcolm to apply the brake can be an improbable move, but he responded with four consecutive maidens and order was briefly restored.

Marsh and Taylor, however, never gave a hint of a chance as they compensated for their failures on Saturday and reminded themselves of the feast they enjoyed in England last year. Between them, they hit 16 fours. England's pitiful innings had contained a total of seven. Somehow, this summed up one of the most unaccountably ill-balanced days of play imaginable.

• BRISBANE: Three mem-

bers of Australia's Test team —

Mark Taylor, Merv Hughes

and Greg Matthews — have

been omitted for the first two

games of the World Series

Cup, which starts on Thursday (Reuters reports).

• MELBOURNE: A. B. Border (capt), G. Matthews, D. G. Pratt, S. R. Waugh, M. E. Waugh, S. P. O'Donnell, P. M. Taylor, A. Healy, C. G. Reckford, T. Alderman, B. Reid.

• LONDON: D. G. Pratt, S. R. Waugh, M. E. Waugh, S. P. O'Donnell, P. M. Taylor, A. Healy, C. G. Reckford, T. Alderman, B. Reid.

• WINDSOR: C. G. Pratt, S. R. Waugh, M. E. Waugh, S. P. O'Donnell, P. M. Taylor, A. Healy, C. G. Reckford, T. Alderman, B. Reid.

• BRISBANE: C. G. Pratt, S. R. Waugh, M. E. Waugh, S. P. O'Donnell, P. M. Taylor, A. Healy, C. G. Reckford, T. Alderman, B. Reid.

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